

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Samoa Pulp Mill - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region IX

**Subject:** POLREP #10  
Continuing to ship pulping liquors  
Samoa Pulp Mill  
  
Samoa, CA  
Latitude: 40.8049600 Longitude: -124.1933100

**To:** Harry Allen, EPA Region 9  
Peter Guria, EPA Region 9  
Dan Meer, EPA Region 9

**From:** Steve Calanog, OSC

**Date:** 4/28/2014

**Reporting Period:** 4/14-28/14

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	A949	<b>Contract Number:</b>	EP-S9-12-01
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	0937	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	11/4/2013
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b>	EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	9/30/2013	<b>Start Date:</b>	10/1/2013
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	11/11/2014
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>		<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

The Samoa Pulp Mill Site is a 70 acre former industrial pulp manufacturing facility. The pulp mill was constructed in 1963 by Georgia Pacific. In the early 1970's Louisiana Pacific acquired and ran the facility until 1990. From 1990 until 2008 various smaller groups owned and operated the facility. The last operating owner of the facility was the Evergreen Pulp Company which ran the facility until 2008. Evergreen experienced financial difficulties and "walked away" from the mill site without properly closing operations. Sometime in 2009 a venture group called Freshwater Tissue Company purchased the facility site with intent of converting to a tissue mill. This quickly failed to reach fruition and Freshwater began scrapping the facility and consolidating hazardous waste. In August of 2013 Freshwater Tissue Company sold the facility to the Humboldt Bay Harbor District (aka - Port Authority). The facility is currently staffed with 2 part-time Humboldt Bay Harbor District employees.

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

The Samoa Pulp Mill Site is located within Humboldt County in Samoa, CA. The Site is approximately 70 acres of industrial pulp processing operations and is situated on the North Spit of Humboldt Bay. The facility is on the shore line of Humboldt Bay and has an industrial wharf on the Bay. The Pacific Ocean is located within 800 yds to the west of the facility.

##### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The primary concern is 11 ASTs containing 3-4 million gallons of highly caustic liquids (pH greater than 13). Five of these ASTs are not designed to store caustic liquids and periodic seismic activity (6.8 earthquake occurred off coast of Humboldt Co. 3/9/2014) has caused grave concern regarding their stability. Additionally, there are a half dozen ASTs containing 2000-3000 gallons of sulfuric acid (pH less than 1), 3,000 tons of corrosive sludges in uncontained areas, approximately 3000 gallons of turpentine, and several thousand containers of various types (i.e., compressed gas cylinders, paints/thinners, mercury containing gauges and equipment).

##### 1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

Please refer to previous Polreps

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

During this reporting period, EPA, the USCG Pacific Strike Team, and EPA Contractors (Environmental Quality Management, Global Diving and Salvage, and Marine Pollution Control) have continued the transport of the pulping liquors to the Kapstone Paper Company in Longview, WA. Also during this reporting period the remaining bulk volumes of sulfuric acid were removed and transported for disposal, all wharf deck pipelines and headers were evacuated and removed, and tank removal/dis-assembly began.

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

4/14-28/2014 - 80 truckloads of pulping liquors (59 green, and 21 black) delivered to the Kapstone Paper Company in Longview, WA. The brings the total to date to approximately 632,000 gallons of pulping liquors re-used.

4/15/2014 – EPA contractors and USCG Pacific Strike Team members performed a Level A entry to remove 2,000 gallons of sulfuric acid. All bulk volumes of acid has now been removed from the site. To date, approximately 12,000 gallons of acid (sulfuric and hydrochloric acids) have been removed from the pulp mill site.

4/16-19/2014 - EPA contractors and USCG Pacific Strike Team members evacuated any residual products from wharf pipelines. Approximately 4,000 gallons of caustic liquids were removed. All deck surface headers, valves, and pipelines were removed. Sub-deck pipeline removal will take place in 3 weeks.

4/22-24/2014 - USCG Pacific Strike Team members pumped approximately 45,000 gallons of green liquors from Tank 9 to the temporary storage frack tanks.

4/21-28/2014 - EPA contractors began disassembling Tanks 7 and 8 which have been evacuated of pumpable pulping liquors.

4/24/2014 – OSC provided update HBHD Commissioners

#### 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

On-going

#### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>	<i>Recycled</i>
Caustic liquids	liquids	2.7m gallons				To date - 632k gallons Kapstone Paper Company, Longview, WA
Sulfuric Acid - Re-usable	liquids	6k gallons				Purchased by Valley Acid, Stratford, CA (11/13)
Sulfuric Acid - Waste	liquids	4k gallons		x	x	21st Century Environmental Management of CA, LP
Hydrochloric Acid - Waste	liquids	2,100 gallons	011138259 JJK	x	x	
Corrosive sludges	semi-solids	9k tons				
Turpentine	liquids	3k gallons				
Lab Chemicals	various	~2k containers	0000990296DAT	x	x	21st Century Environmental Management of CA, LP
"HHW" type	various	~2k containers				
Hg	liquids	Unk at this time				
Waste oils	liquids	~2k gallons				

## 2.2 Planning Section

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Continue to ship pulping liquors to Kapstone Paper Company.

Continue tank dismantling operations.

Scrap steel with steel recyclers.

Remove wharf sub-deck pipelines.

Remove corrosive sudges and transport for disposal.

Remove and dispose of C&D and contaminated debris wastes.

#### **2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

#### **2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

#### **2.2.2 Issues**

### **2.3 Logistics Section**

No information available at this time.

### **2.4 Finance Section**

No information available at this time.

### **2.5 Other Command Staff**

#### **2.5.1 Safety Officer**

EQM Pat Heyneman and USCG MST2 Barnum are the Site Safety Officers during this period

#### **2.5.2 Liaison Officer**

EPA OSC Calanog is serving as the Liaison Officers during this period

#### **2.5.3 Information Officer**

David Yogi is EPA's Public Affairs point of contact.

Lt. Leigh Van Leer is the USCG's Public Affairs point of contact.

### **3. Participating Entities**

#### **3.1 Unified Command**

US EPA

USCG Pacific Strike Team

Humboldt Bay Harbor District

#### **3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

Humboldt County Department of Health

Samoa Fire Department

Humboldt Bay Fire District

Del Norte County Department of Environmental Health

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

California Department of Toxics and Substance Control

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

United States Coast Guard - Sector San Francisco

Washington Department of Ecology

### **4. Personnel On Site**

EPA OSC - 1

USCG PST - 8

Environmental Quality Mgmt - 5 Global Diving and Salvage - 2 Marine Pollution Control - 1 Humboldt Bay Harbor District - 2

### **5. Definition of Terms**

No information available at this time.

### **6. Additional sources of information**

No information available at this time.

### **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.