

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



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region IX

**Subject:** POLREP #12  
Pulping liquor shipments temporarily suspended, tank demolition continues, sludge solidification begins  
Samoa Pulp Mill

Samoa, CA  
Latitude: 40.8049600 Longitude: -124.1933100

**To:** Harry Allen, EPA Region 9  
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**From:** Steve Calanog, OSC Chris Weden, OSC

**Date:** 5/23/2014

**Reporting Period:** 5/13/14 - 6/1/14

## 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

5/12 - 22/2014 - Pulping liquors were loaded to tank trucks and delivered to the Kapstone Paper Company in Longview, WA. The brings the total to date to approximately 1.12 million gallons of pulping liquors re-used.

5/12-16/2014 - EPA contractors and USCG Pacific Strike Team members removed approximately 4,000 feet of chemical pipelines from the wharf area.

5/12/2014 - USCG Pacific Strike Team members pumped approximately 45,000 gallons of white liquors from Tank 140 to the temporary storage frack tanks.

5/23/2014 - Per request of the Kapstone Paper Company, pulping liquor shipments to temporarily suspended one week prior to their two-week facility maintenance shutdown.

5/12 -29/2014 - EPA contractors have been disassembling emptied tanks and the associated piping to these tanks. A pilot study on solidification of the sludges in these tanks with fly ash from neighboring power plant was being conducted.

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

On-going

#### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

| <i><b>Waste Stream</b></i> | <i><b>Medium</b></i> | <i><b>Quantity</b></i> | <i><b>Manifest #</b></i> | <i><b>Treatment</b></i> | <i><b>Disposal</b></i> | <i><b>Recycled</b></i>   |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Caustic liquids            | liquids              | 2.7m gallons           |                          |                         |                        | To date - 1.12 million gallons<br><br>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

EPA, USCG, and contractor personnel will return to the site beginning 6/13/14 in preparation for resumption of liquor shipments beginning on 6/16/14.

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

All EPA field activities will be suspended for the first two weeks of June.

#### **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**

No information available at this time.

## **3. Participating Entities**

No information available at this time.

## **4. Personnel On Site**

EPA OSC - 1

USCG PST - 5

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.