U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
CUC Rota Power Plant - Removal Polrep

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IX

Subject: **POLREP #10**
Interceptor trench completed
CUC Rota Power Plant

Songsong, MP
Latitude: 14.1366670 Longitude: 145.1358330

To:
From: OSC Chris Reiner
Date: 6/27/2014
Reporting Period: 6/23/14-6/29/14

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Z9D9 / 09WV	**Contract Number:**	
D.O. Number:		**Action Memo Date:**	
Response Authority:	OPA	**Response Type:**	Time-Critical
Response Lead:	EPA	**Incident Category:**	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	**Operable Unit:**	
Mobilization Date:	4/3/2013	**Start Date:**	4/3/2013
Demob Date:		**Completion Date:**	
CERCLIS ID:		**RCRIS ID:**	
ERNS No.:		**State Notification:**	
FPN#:	E11903	**Reimbursable Account #:**	

1.1.1 Incident Category

1.1.2 Site Description

The Rota Power Plant Site is an active diesel-powered electrical plant where contaminated soil and groundwater are present. The contaminants of concern at the Site are polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in soil and petroleum hydrocarbons in groundwater. The Site is located in Songsong Village on the island of Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The power plant sits approximately 100 feet from the shoreline of the Philippine Sea. EPA is addressing the PCB contamination by excavating the contaminated soil and shipping it off-island for disposal. The estimated clean-up volume is 200 cubic yards.

Operations at the site include the generation of power for the island of Rota, storage of new and used oil, and oil/water separation. The Rota Power Plant site contains four primary aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) as well as day tanks and drum and transformer storage areas. There are two oil/water separator (OWS) systems are located at the Rota Power Plant site. One rudimentary OWS consists of drums from which oil is manually skimmed. The system is located inside the main Power Plant building and drains to the north of the building into a pit. A second in-ground OWS is piped from the secondary containment areas of the ASTs and the drum storage berm located in the western portion of the property. This OWS can hold 2,500 gallons of oil and water and discharges separated water directly to a pit dug in the ground.

In addition, there are several current and former transformer storage areas where PCB-laden transformer oil may have leaked onto the soil.

1.1.2.1 Location

Songsong Village, Rota, CNMI
Latitude: 14.1366670
Longitude: -145.1358330

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Release of PCBs and petroleum products to soil and groundwater.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

Oil has been seeping out along the shoreline along a 200'foot stretch for an unknown period of time. The source has not been able to be identified, although it clearly comes from the CUC Rota Power Plant property, through Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) land to the ocean. Groundwater wells installed on the CUC Power Plant facility are contaminated with dissolved and free-phase product.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

During this time period, the ERRS contractor completed excavation and installation of the interceptor trench on CPA land. The START contractor collected samples of excavated soils.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

MONDAY June 23, 2014: Personnel on-site: EPA – 1, USCG – 2, START – 1, ERRS – 8.
ERRS completed excavation of overburden and coral from trench segment #9, installed shoring box #9 and backfilled shoring box #8. Segment #9 showed some black spotting and streaking, but less than was observed in segments #7 and #8.

TUESDAY June 24, 2014: Personnel on-site: EPA – 1, USCG – 2, START – 1, ERRS – 9.
ERRS Heyneman arrived on site. ERRS completed excavation of trench segment #10, installed shoring box #10 and removed overburden from shore box #11.

WEDNESDAY June 25, 2014: Personnel on-site: EPA – 1, USCG – 2, START – 1, ERRS – 9.
ERRS backfilled shoring box #9, excavated trench segment #11 and began installation of shoring box #11. Excavated material and groundwater in the trench looks significantly cleaner than in previous segments.

THURSDAY June 26, 2014: Personnel on-site: EPA – 1, USCG – 2, START – 1, ERRS – 9.
ERRS completed installation of shoring box #11, backfilled shoring box #10 including installation of sump 4, and began excavation of trench segment #12. Excavated material and groundwater in the trench continues to have a much cleaner appearance as excavation approaches the planned end of the interceptor trench. The long-reach forklift began to have engine trouble, apparently related to the fuel system. ERRS contacted Hawthorne on Guam, who will attempt to have a mechanic on-site on June 27.

FRIDAY June 27, 2014: Personnel on-site: EPA – 1, USCG – 2, START – 1, ERRS – 9.
ERRS completed excavation of trench segment #12, installed shoring box #12, backfilled shoring box #11 and began backfill of shoring box #12, completing work on the interceptor trench as initially designed. START received analytical data indicating that stockpiles 11 and 12 were below TPH action levels, and stockpile 13 was above TPH action levels. Stockpiles 11 and 12 were used as backfill in the interceptor trench, and stockpile 13 will be loaded into cubic yard boxes. Hawthorne had difficulty arranging flights from Guam and their mechanic will arrive on-site on June 30 to address fuel system issues with the forklift and replace hydraulic lines on the loader.

SATURDAY June 28, 2014: Personnel on-site: EPA – 2, USCG – 2, START – 1, ERRS – 9.
EPA Johnson arrived on site. START Tiballi demobilized. ERRS completed backfill of shoring box #12 and began excavation of overburden on the recovery trench. ERRS was able to get the forklift working and filled boxes of contaminated soil from stockpile 13 and loaded them into shipping containers.

SUNDAY June 29, 2014: DAY OFF

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

Responsible party (CNMI CUC) has been providing assistance, logistical support and supplies, including diesel fuel for heavy equipment.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	*Medium*	*Quantity*	*Manifest #*	*Treatment*	*Disposal*

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Installation of recovery trench, extension of interceptor trench southward.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

-Installation of recovery trench on CUC Rota Power Plant property.
-Extension of interceptor trench southward to ensure that interceptor trench spans subsurface plume
-Loading of contaminated soil into boxes, and containers for off site transport to Mainland for disposal.
-Sampling of soils generated from excavations.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

Installation of recovery trench.

2.2.2 Issues

-Coral substrate is incredibly hard and has been a challenge to remove, slowing excavation operations.
-This site is extremely remote and located on an island with virtually no services or supplies available. This presents significant logistical challenges.
- Equipment challenges continue, with the forklift fuel system causing it to lose power and shut off

frequently. A Hawthorne mechanic is due on site on June 30 to address equipment 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

3.1 Unified Command

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

CNMI Division of Environmental Quality
US Coast Guard
CNMI Coastal Resources Management
CNMI Historic Preservation Office
Commonwealth Ports Authority

4. Personnel On Site

USEPA - 2
USCG - 2
START - 1
ERRS - 8
SEARCH - 1

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.