

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



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IX

Subject: POLREP #13
Pulping Liquor Transfer Resumes, Awaiting \$6M Ceiling Increase/12 Month Extension
Approval
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 Chris Weden, OSC

Date: 7/19/2014

Reporting Period: 6/19/2014 - 7/19/2014

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

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

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, and Global Diving and Salvage resumed the transport of the pulping liquors to the Kapstone Paper Company in Longview, WA. Also during this reporting period tank removal/dis-assembly resumed, sludge was solidified and sampled for T&D purposes, and scrap steel was prepared for recycle.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

6/19-7/19/2014 - Approximately 492K gal of pulping liquors were loaded to tank trucks and delivered to the Kapstone Paper Company in Longview, WA. This brings the total to date to approximately 1.614M gal of pulping liquors re-used.

6/19-7/19/2014 - EPA contractors have been disassembling emptied tanks and the associated piping to these tanks. The sludge solidification pilot study described in Polrep 12 was successful. EPA contractors have since been solidifying the sludges in the disassembled tanks with fly ash from neighboring power plant.

USCG Pacific Strike Team members pumped white pulping liquor from Tank 141 to the temporary storage Frac tanks on 3 occasions: 6/21 (160K gal), 6/28 (80K gal), and 7/14 (135K gal). On 7/17, white pulping liquor from Tank 19 was blended with Tank 140. Approximately 595K gal is presently in Tank 140 awaiting transfer to the pre-load frac tank bank.

7/14/2014 - Results of sludge sample analyses received. Of note, the composite sample of solidified sludge in Tank #8 was pH 11.8. ERRS has issued an RFP for this material but cannot award any contract until additional funding is obligated to this TO.

7/17/2014 - Sims Metal Recycling began shipment of decontaminated scrap steel to their facility on Oakland, CA for recycle.

7/17/2014 - RDML Servidio from Coast Guard District 11 visited the site and seemed impressed by the work that was being accomplished. OSC Weden conveyed EPA's appreciation for USCG Pacific Strike Team's assistance.

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

On-going

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	Medium	Quantity	Manifest #	Treatment	Disposal	Recycled
Caustic liquids	liquids	2.8m gallons				To date - 1.62 million 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

OSC Weden, OSC Calanog, and everyone else intimately involved with this removal action are anxiously awaiting HQ approval of a Request for an Authorization for Removal Action Beyond the 6 Million Dollar and 12 Month Statutory Limits, and the Ceiling Increase for this Site. Since the 3/28 Press Conference at which Regional Administrator Jared Blumenfeld and U.S. Representative Jared Huffman advocated more funding to mitigate the imminent and substantial threats posed by this Site (Polrep 7), OSCs Weden and Calanog have been diligently preparing this document. After several iterations, it was accepted by HQ and on 6/30 it was placed onto the concurrence track.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Delay directing the ERRS ktr. to award needed subcontracts for T&D. Presently, the Humboldt Bay Harbor District is funding the transportation of the pulping liquors. Their contract will be exhausted by mid-August. We estimate ERRS will need to then contract an additional 100 truckloads (~\$300K) to complete pulping liquor removal.

Additionally, awarding a subcontract for the T&D of the solidified sludges will be delayed.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

Keep our fingers crossed.

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.: 4

Global Diving and Salvage: 3

Humboldt Bay Harbor District: 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.