

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Charleston WV Chemical Leak - Removal Polrep
Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region III

Subject: POLREP #10
Final
Charleston WV Chemical Leak
Charleston, WV
Latitude: 38.3685800 Longitude: -81.6066300

To: Cindy Santiago, USEPA R3

From: Dennis Matlock and Melissa Linden, On-Scene Coordinators

Date: 12/16/2014

Reporting Period: 3/9/2014-9/30/2015

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Contract Number:
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date:
Response Authority: CERCLA	Response Type: Emergency
Response Lead:	Incident Category: Removal Assessment
NPL Status:	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date: 1/9/2014	Start Date: 1/9/2014
Demob Date: 3/8/2014	Completion Date: 9/30/2015
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:	State Notification:
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:

1.1.1 Incident Category

Tank failure and subsequent chemical release into the Elk River, Etowah, WV.

1.1.2 Site Description

The Site consists of one breached tank, which is component to the facility, along with the soils beneath the tank, the pathway towards the Elk River, and the affected portion of the Elk River.

1.1.2.1 Location

The incident occurred at the Freedom Industries, located at 1015 Barlow Drive, Charleston, Kanawha County, WV 25311.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

An imminent substantial endangerment to welfare and/or the public caused by a chemical release.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

WVDEP conducted the initial assessment of the scene, in response to an odor complaint to their Air Division. EPA mobilized to the Site and assumed a support role to WVDEP. EPA received reports through WVDEP that the chemical was identified as "Eastman Crude MCHM", which is a mixture of components, predominantly 4-methylcyclohexanemethanol. There is a licorice odor to the compound, which is caused by 4-(methoxymethyl) cyclohexanemethanol. The material was classified as non-toxic. However, analytical testing for this particular compound, did not exist at the time of the release. Since then, WVAWC, assisted by Dupont, has developed a method and continued to sample the processed water at the drinking water plant.

The spill occurred from one of three tanks that contain the MCHM/PPH. The secondary containment around the tanks was inadequate and failed. It was estimated by the RP in a letter dated January 23, 2014, that 10,124 gallons of the chemical were released. However, the volume of the chemical that actually entered the river is uncertain.

The RP utilized facility personnel and initiated the hiring of contractors to place boom along the left descending bank of the Elk River, adjacent to the area of the spill. The RP also hired contractors to conduct land clean-up

operations.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

See previous POLREPs for site information and actions conducted from January 9, 2014 through September 30, 2015.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

Weekly conference calls were conducted by the RP's representatives and WVDEP. During the conference calls and occasional site visits made by the US EPA OSCs it was documented the removal of the tanks were completed by October 1, 2014.

US EPA Environmental Response Team (ERT) members developed a air sampling and analysis method for MCHM. At the same time US EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD) developed a screening level for the air samples to be compared against. For a copy of the air sampling and analysis standard operating procedure (SOP) and the screening level please see the site website under reference documents. The air sampling assistance was requested by WVDEP.

US EPA ERT and contractors set-up a mobile laboratory in Charleston, WV to run the analysis of the air samples to be taken. The mobile laboratory remained in Charleston, WV from October 7, 2014 to December 5, 2014.

US EPA ERT, contractors and US EPA OSCs conducted a baseline air sampling event October 15, 2014 - October 18, 2014. The event consisted of 6, 12 hour samples being taken at 7 different sample locations around the perimeter of the facility and throughout the surrounding community.

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

The Responsible Party (RP) is identified as Freedom Industries, and is under orders from WVDEP. There are four orders and one revision to an order. Orders include: a cease and desist order; an order to develop a plan to empty all 14 tanks on Site; an order to remove all material from on-site above ground storage tanks (AST) by March 15, 2014; an order to report all on-site and all information of MCHM/PPH; and an order to begin to dismantle all ASTs on or before March 15, 2014.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Pre- Shipment Quantity in Storage (gallons)</i>	<i>Quantity Shipped (gallons)</i>	<i>Quantity Remaining after shipment (gallons)</i>	<i>Date Shipped</i>	<i>Disposal</i>
MCHM/PPH	liquid	100,233		100,233	Starting quantity 1/21/2014	transport off-site
MCHM/PPH	liquid	100,233	10,217	90,016	2/6/2014 - 2/16/2014	transport off-site
MCHM/PPH	liquid	90,016	5,180	84,836	2/17/2014	transport off-site
MCHM/PPH	liquid	84,836	7,000	77,836	2/19/2014	transfer to permanent storage
MCHM/PPH	liquid	77,836		55		No MCHM remains on- site except for one 55- gallon drum that is sealed and required because of litigation

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

EPA will provide support to WVDEP with sampling activities, and other technical support, upon request.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

- Oversight will continue by WVDEP, and EPA will participate in weekly conference calls if requested.

2.2.2 Issues

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
START	\$180,056.00	\$131,100.01	\$48,955.99	27.19%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$180,056.00	\$131,100.01	\$48,955.99	27.19%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

Freedom Industries

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

EPA Mark Ferrell

2.5.3 Information Officer

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command/Facility (Freedom Industries)

WVDEP
USEPA
Freedom Industries

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR)
National Guard
West Virginia Department of Natural Resources (WVDNR)
Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO)
West Virginia American WaterWorks Company (WVAWC)
Chemical Safety Board (CSB)
Center for Disease Control (CDC)
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOT)
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

4. Personnel On Site

WVDEP
Freedom Industries
Arcadis

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.

