

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
North Penn Area 6 - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region III

**Subject:** POLREP #2  
North Penn Area 6  
03W9  
Lansdale, PA

**To:**

**From:** Kelley Chase, On-Scene Coordinator

**Date:** 3/4/2016

**Reporting Period:** 8/8/15 through 3/4/15

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

|                            |        |                                |  |
|----------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Site Number:</b>        | 03W9   | <b>Contract Number:</b>        |  |
| <b>D.O. Number:</b>        |        | <b>Action Memo Date:</b>       |  |
| <b>Response Authority:</b> | CERCLA | <b>Response Type:</b>          |  |
| <b>Response Lead:</b>      | EPA    | <b>Incident Category:</b>      |  |
| <b>NPL Status:</b>         | NPL    | <b>Operable Unit:</b>          |  |
| <b>Mobilization Date:</b>  |        | <b>Start Date:</b>             |  |
| <b>Demob Date:</b>         |        | <b>Completion Date:</b>        |  |
| <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

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

The North Penn Area 6 Superfund Site (Site) is largely a groundwater contamination problem encompassing the area in and around the Borough of Lansdale, Pennsylvania. The area is a mix of industrial, commercial and residential properties. The primary contaminants of concern in groundwater are volatile organic compounds, including trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE) which are common components of degreasers and solvents.

The Site was added to the National Priorities List (NPL) on March 31, 1989. EPA selected a remedy for the Site in a Record of Decision, signed on August 10, 2000. The remedy includes groundwater extraction and treatment to clean up the contaminated groundwater underlying the site. The remedy also requires that individual water supply wells affected by the site-related contamination above drinking water standards be provided with connections to the public water supply.

In 2013 and 2014, the EPA Remedial Program conducted sampling at several on-site properties to evaluate the potential for vapor intrusion. Based on the results of that sampling and given recent changes in screening values for TCE, the EPA Removal Program was asked to further evaluate the potential for vapor intrusion at two properties located within the Site.

Vapor intrusion is the term used to describe the migration of chemical vapors from subsurface contaminated soils and groundwater into the indoor air spaces of overlying buildings through openings in the building foundation. Common sources of VI include petroleum products, dry cleaning solvents, and other industrial solvents and degreasers.

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

The Site is located in Lansdale, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

##### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Given the underlying groundwater contamination and based on the results of earlier sampling of indoor air and sub-slab vapor conducted by the EPA Remedial Program, the EPA Removal Program was asked to further evaluate the potential for vapor intrusion at two industrial/commercial properties at the Site.

EPA is coordinating with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). ATSDR is a federal public health agency under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that provides

assistance to EPA in evaluating potential human health risks associated with exposure to environmental contaminants.

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

On July 23, 2015, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Chase and Remedial Project Manager (RPM) Ngo visited the two industrial/commercial properties. The first property visited was the J.W. Rex Heat Treat facility located at 8th & Valley Forge Road in Lansdale. The second was the Westside Industries facility located at 5th & Mitchell Streets. The OSC and RPM toured the facilities and identified the locations of earlier sampling efforts.

The OSC will review the results of early sampling and meet with the EPA Remedial Program and ATSDR to discuss plans to further evaluate the potential for vapor intrusion at these facilities.

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

Activities for this reporting period (August 8, 2015 through March 4, 2016) included the following:

On February 4, 2016, EPA issued a technical direction document to its Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractor, Weston Solutions, Inc., to provide technical assistance to EPA during the assessment of the Site. The objective of the assessment is to evaluate whether VI is occurring at the facilities, and, if so, whether VOCs are present at concentrations that may pose an unacceptable risk to worker health.

On February 23, 2016, the EPA OSC and EPA RPM and a representative of EPA's START contractor toured the Rex Heat Treat facility along with a facility representative to identify potential sampling locations. START conducted air monitoring for the presence of volatile organic compounds throughout the facility.

On March 2, 2016, EPA returned to the Rex Heat Treat facility to install sub-slab ports to allow for sub-slab vapor sampling. EPA OSC Chase oversaw the installation of sub-slab sampling ports by the START contractor. A facility representative was on-site to oversee activities. A total of 5 sub-slab ports were installed throughout the facility. START conducted air monitoring for the presence of volatile organic compounds.

On March 3, 2016, EPA and START returned to the facility to set up Summa canisters to collect sub-slab vapor, indoor air and ambient (outdoor) air samples over an 8-hour period of time. Samples were collected in the front administrative office area, the plant processing areas, plant operator offices and from outside. A total of 20 Summa canisters, including one duplicate quality assurance/quality control sample, were deployed to collect samples. The samples are being transported to EPA's Laboratory in Fort Meade, Maryland to be analyzed for the presence of VOCs. In addition, START collected a water sample from a sump inside the facility. The water sample will be analyzed for the presence of VOCs at a EPA approved lab.

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

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

#### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

| <i>Waste Stream</i> | <i>Medium</i> | <i>Quantity</i> | <i>Manifest #</i> | <i>Treatment</i> | <i>Disposal</i> |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
|                     |               |                 |                   |                  |                 |
|                     |               |                 |                   |                  |                 |
|                     |               |                 |                   |                  |                 |

## 2.2 Planning Section

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

The OSC anticipates collecting samples at the Westside Industries facilities. Discussions with the property owners and the EPA RPM regarding the sampling are ongoing.

#### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

#### 2.2.1.2 Next Steps

EPA will review the sampling results to further evaluate the potential for vapor intrusion at the Rex Heat Treat facility. Final validated sampling results will be provided to the owner.

#### 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****3.1 Unified Command****3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

ATSDR

**4. Personnel On Site**

No information available at this time.

**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.