

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Long Creek WWTP Mercury Spill - Removal Polrep  
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region IV

**Subject:** POLREP #1  
Initial  
Long Creek WWTP Mercury Spill  
B48A  
Albemarle, NC  
Latitude: 35.3345930 Longitude: -80.2131220

**To:** James Webster, USEPA R4 ERRPB  
Steve Lewis, NCDENR

**From:** Ken Rhame, OSC

**Date:** 3/17/2016

**Reporting Period:** 3/17/2016 to 3/18/2016

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	B48A	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b>	PRP	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	3/17/2016	<b>Start Date:</b>	3/17/2016
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>		<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	NC DEQ RCRA
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response - CERCLA

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

Municipal Waste Water Treatment Plant

Long Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

1040 Coble Avenue

##### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Released Mercury to a municipal office building presenting a inhalation threat as well as the possibility of employees tracking it off site.

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

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

In approximately 2008, The City of Albemarle collected and consolidated several pounds of mercury from various city labs, offices and departments, and stored it in a room on the second floor of the Long Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant office building. The City of Albemarle Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator noticed some spilled mercury on the concrete floor in the room; this prompted the city to solicit bids from contractors to conduct the transport and disposal of the mercury. The contractor assessed the mercury on 3/16/2016 and determined that it may have exceeded the reportable quantity and that it would require a more detailed work plan. Based on the contractor's recommendation, the City of Albemarle reported the incident to the National Response Center and North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality.

There are several containers of mercury in the storage area, it appears that one container was damaged and leaked approximately 15 to 20 pounds of mercury onto the floor of the storage room. There are no drains or hvac vents leading to or from the storage room. EPA advised the city to isolate the second floor and to open

windows on the first floor to increase ventilation until a thorough assessment could be completed. The City is attempting to hire a contractor to mitigate the spill. OSC Rhame mobilized with START contractors to assess the remainder of the building and provide technical assistance to the response crew.

**2.1.2 Response Actions to Date**

EPA advised the city to isolate the second floor and to open windows on the first floor to increase ventilation until a thorough assessment could be completed. The City is attempting to hire a contractor to mitigate the spill. OSC Rhame mobilized with START contractors to assess the remainder of the building and provide technical assistance to the response crew. Further actions are pending.

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

City of Albemarle is the owner and operator of the facility.

**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**

No information available at this time.

**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**

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.