

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Ridgely Paraquat Spill - Removal Polrep
Initial and Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IV

Subject: POLREP #1
Initial & Final Polrep
Ridgely Paraquat Spill
B48I
RIDGELY, TN
Latitude: 36.2341260 Longitude: -89.4769660

To:
From: Steve Spurlin, OSC
Date: 5/2/2016
Reporting Period: April 28, 2016 to April 29, 2016

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	B48I	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	PRP	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	4/28/2016	Start Date:	4/28/2016
Demob Date:	4/29/2016	Completion Date:	4/29/2016
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:	1146404	State Notification:	04/28/2016
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

This incident is an emergency response to the release of paraquat, a toxic herbicide, to roadside drainage ditches.

1.1.2 Site Description

A truck carrying the herbicide made a turn causing the load to shift. A tote broke through the truck's side gate and fell onto the pavement. The damaged tote released the herbicide onto the roadway and roadside apron. Before local emergency management and the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation (TDEC) representatives were on-scene, the responsible party was directed to wash the chemical off the roadway. The quantity of paraquat released from the tote was calculated to be 110 gallons; however, the washing of the chemical increased the volume of the material allowing the water and chemical mix to flow into a roadside drainage area.

1.1.2.1 Location

The incident occurred at the intersection of State Highway 78 and State Highway 79, near the town of Ridgely, Lake County, Tennessee.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The product, sold under the trade name Gramoxone Max, is a common herbicide used in agriculture operations. It contains approximately 44% paraquat dichloride. The material is a skin irritant and can be fatal if swallowed. The chemical is toxic to aquatic life. The drainage area impacted by the chemical drains to the Reel Foot Run Bayou which discharges to a lake that's part of a wildlife management area. The lake discharges to the Mississippi River.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

Upon arrival, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) observed a dark green liquid contained in approximately 250' of roadside ditch. The EPA OSC directed the responsible party to remove liquids and impacted soil and sediment from the ditch.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

The responsible party utilized their company labor and equipment to conduct the cleanup.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

Starting on April 28, 2016, the responsible party began pumping the liquids from the ditch to allow for excavation of impacted soils and sediments. Approximately 6000 gallons of water and chemical were pumped into temporary holding tanks. Once the liquids were removed, the impacted soil and sediment were excavated from the ditch and placed into temporary storage containers. The two storage boxes were transported to a nearby waste management company for storage until disposal arrangements were finalized.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture will work with the farmer to allow the liquid to be utilized for its intended purpose.

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

The responsible party conducted the cleanup. The EPA OSC issued a Notice of Federal Interest letter to the responsible party.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>
paraquat liquids	liquid	6000 gals.			TBD
paraquat contaminated soil	soil	30 cubic yards			TBD

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

No further EPA actions are anticipated.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

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

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.