

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Carville National Leather - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region II

**Subject:** POLREP #21  
Carville National Leather  
A-295  
Johnstown, NY  
Latitude: 42.9999750 Longitude: -74.3805440

**To:**  
**From:** Paul L. Kahn, On-Scene Coordinator  
**Date:** 1/19/2017  
**Reporting Period:**

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	A-295	<b>Contract Number:</b>	EP-S2-15-02
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	045	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	9/21/2016
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b>	EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	1/19/2017	<b>Start Date:</b>	1/19/2017
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	NYD002193795	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	NYD0002840000
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Abandoned leather tannery.

1.1.2 Site Description

The Site is a former family-owned leather tannery that had been operating as such since 1976. Eighty percent of its business was contracts with the Dept. of Defense. Prior to that it was owned/operated as Knox Gelatin factory. In 2009 Carville Leather experienced a series of minor fires that caused brief business interruption. In 2012, following a major downturn of military contracts, business began to suffer and the company began a rapid fiscal decline. In 2013 the tannery closed its doors and the owner filed for Chapter 11 (reorg) bankruptcy protection, but there is no record of any actual reorganization of the business. No property taxes have been paid since 2012, and the Site appears, for all intents and purposes, to have been abandoned by its owners.

1.1.2.1 Location

The Site is located in a heavily treed, partial residential neighborhood. It is surrounded by trees on three sides and the Cayadutta Creek, a navigable waterway of the US, borders the site on the south side of the property. A former RR right-of-way which was converted to a bike/walking trail, also borders the Site on the south side of the property adjacent to the creek.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The threat is the presence of hundreds of drums and other containers of chemicals in an abandoned tannery that has no power or functioning fire detection/prevention system. Some of the entrances to the premises were unlocked and vandals have accessed the building and overturned drums of chemicals. A red dye was spilled inside the building and it migrated outside the building and into a parking lot.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

Results of a walk-thru inspection by two OSCs in mid-July revealed the presence of hundreds of drums and other containers of chemicals. Some were labeled as acid or corrosive, and one drum is labeled as formic acid, a CERCLA Listed Hazardous Substance. A large AST is located behind the main building and it may contain fuel oil or process chemicals. A small building housing a

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1.1 Narrative

**Current activity is in bold letters.**

ERRS patched the cracked pipe and is using sorbents to remove as much dye from the first floor as possible. Current plan is to use shop vacs to remove as much liquid as possible and sorbets to grab the remainder. Liquid will be bulked into totes and sorbent will be bulked into cubic yard boxes. Attempts will be made to use a floor sealer to cover the dye that is not able to be removed. Additional dye has puddled in the basement and will also be removed. ved.

### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

[illegible]


## 2.2 Planning Section

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities.

Send formal notification to the NYSDEC that additional response activities will be initiated at the Site.

#### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Continue clean up as detailed in Operations Section.

#### 2.2.1.2 Next Steps

Continue response action to mitigate the release of the red dye..

### 2.2.2 Issues

None.

## 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

NYSDEC

City of Johnstown

## 4. Personnel On Site

ERRS Contractor 1 RM, 1 Operator and 3 Techs, other personnel as needed.

EPA 1 OSC

## 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.