

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Monday, June 27, 2005

From: Terry Stilman

Subject: Emergency Response
Broken Sound Anthrax
5401 Broken Sound Blvd, Boca Raton, FL

POLREP No.:	4	Site #:	A46C
Reporting Period:	6/26/2005 to 6/27/2005	D.O. #:	
Start Date:	6/17/2005	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	6/17/2005	Response Type:	Emergency
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:		Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

On 16-JUN-05, OSC Stilman mobilized to the Broken Sound Anthrax Site to conduct a removal site evaluation, based on a request from the Palm Beach County Health Department (PBCHD). On 12 June 2005, the PBCHD contacted EPA regarding flooding in the basement of 5401 Broken Sound Blvd. In October of 2001, 5401 Broken Sound Blvd. (former AMI Building) received a package or letter contaminated with bacillus anthracis (Ba). Sampling by EPA, the Centers for Disease Control and the building owner's contractor found Ba throughout. In July of 2004, the building owner's contractor decontaminated the three top floors using chlorine dioxide (ClO₂). Before decontamination, papers, photos and other office supplies were boxed, placed on pallets and moved to the parking garage. Approximately 600 pallets of this material, presumed to be contaminated with Ba, were originally placed in the parking garage. The parking garage is partially above ground and open to the air. In May of 2005, the building owner's contractor began transporting the palletized material to an auto-clave for treatment. On 30-May-05, operations were halted due to a contract dispute. Between 01-JUN-05 and 15-JUN-05, the owner attempted to stabilize the contaminated boxes and prevent flood waters from contacting the boxes. On 15-JUN-05, the PBCHD found operations on site being conducted in an unsafe manner and halted all work. On 16-JUN-05, OSC Stilman mobilized to the Site and met with the PBCHD. On 17-JUN-05, the PBCHD and Florida Department of Health, by letter, formally requested EPA assistance with potential releases of Ba from the Site. There are approximately 480 pallets with 6,000 boxes of material presumed to be contaminated with Ba left.

Current Activities

EPA OSC Stilman initiated an emergency removal action to stabilize and secure the contaminated material, and prevent further impact by flood waters, establishing a \$250,000 ceiling.

EPA mobilized WRS as the ERRS contractor to stabilize the boxes which were compromised by the flood. Damage to these boxes is visible. EPA's contractor is shrink wrapping those unstable boxes to limit future degradation and to limit the potential release of anthrax spores. All pallets are being restaged on cinder blocks to limit future water contact. The PBCHD and EPA-ERT is also on site to assist with the response.

Entry into the parking garage continues to stabilize the boxes and restage the pallets. On June 26 and June 27, 2005, the ERRS subcontractor made two entries respectively into the contaminated zone (total of 4 entries). 85 pallets were staged on June 26 and 76 on June 27th. Additional areas were spot decontaminated and breached pallets were shrink wrapped.

Approximately 263 pallets of the original 480 pallets have been secured and elevated to date.

Of the 480 pallets, there are approximately 125 pallets of boxes that were autoclaved and returned to the parking garage. These pallets are wrapped in a tarp. It is not known if these were recontaminated by the flood. EPA will leave these in place. Also, 15 pallets remain in the fume chamber. These were auto-claved, but test strips still indicated the presence of Ba spores. 5 additional pallets were fumigated,

cleared with confirmatory testing, and are staged in the parking garage.

ERRS completed repairing the pipes and pumps associated with the building's groundwater dewatering system on June 12, 2005. No further flooding has occurred since. However, the pumps can only be operated from within the potentially contaminated space of the basement. Also, ERRS has noted that the electronics of the switch for the dewatering pumps is faulty. The dewatering system is monitored during each entry and is operating properly.

Planned Removal Actions

EPA will restage the remaining pallettes. Breached palletes will be shrink wrapped. Potentially contaminated material that does not pose an immediate risk will remain in place.

Next Steps

Actions to secure and stabilize contaminated material will continue. EPA-ERT will investigate potential off-site contamination and worker exposure issues.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$250,000.00	\$131,428.95	\$118,571.05	47.43%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$250,000.00	\$131,428.95	\$118,571.05	47.43%

* 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.

response.epa.gov/brokensound

POLREP #4 Last Updated 7/5/2005