United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region V
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2005
From: Jon Gulch

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Subject: Continuation of Emergency Response
EQ Resource Recovery
36345 Van Born Road, Romulus, MI
Latitude: 42.2654150
Longitude: -83.3955830

POLREP No.:	4	**Site #:**	B5CL
Reporting Period:	August 15-22, 2005	**D.O. #:**	
Start Date:	8/9/2005	**Response Authority:**	CERCLA
Mob Date:	8/9/2005	**Response Type:**	Emergency
Demob Date:		**NPL Status:**	Non NPL
Completion Date:		**Incident Category:**	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:		**Contract #**	
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

On Tuesday, August 9, about 9:15 PM, a large fire erupted at EQ Resource Recovery Inc., a licensed hazardous waste facility located at 36345 Van Born Road in Romulus, Michigan (Latitude 42.1581 & Longitude -83.2388). The Incident Command and the EPA Command Post are now located at the EQ Facility on Van Born Avenue. The facility has approximately thirty-nine (39) above-ground storage tanks ranging in sizes up to 15,000 gallons, of which twenty-nine (29) were impacted by the fire/explosion. In addition, a propylene glycol re-boiler and a drum pad with overhead canopy and approximately four-hundred (400) drums of various products were destroyed. Multiple fire departments with more than one-hundred (100) firefighters responded, with Incident Command (IC) established by the Romulus Fire Chief. Due to the intensity of the fire and the nature of the material involved, approximately twelve-hundred (1,200) homes, as well as GM and Ford Motor Company manufacturing facilities, were evacuated in the Cities of Romulus and Wayne. Shelters were set up at the two Romulus area high schools and a church hall.

Preliminary air samples collected in the fire smoke plume and analyzed by the EPA-ERT TAGA unit did not show elevated levels of hazardous materials, as determined by ATSDR, Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), and the Wayne County Health Department (WCHD). In addition, six wipe samples were collected and sent to the EPA-ERT laboratory and analyzed for base/neutral/acid compounds (BNAs). After reviewing the analytical results from the first six wipe samples collected, the health agencies determined that the chemical concentrations were below health concern levels, and the residents were allowed to return to their homes. Continuous air monitoring of the perimeter of the facility and in the neighborhood downwind of the facility was conducted utilizing Area Raes, which were monitoring for VOCs, hydrogen sulfide, carbon monoxide, oxygen and lower explosive limit. U.S. EPA START and REAC contractors continued investigating the residential area impacted by the plume by collecting four wipe samples from twenty residential properties, two from the upwind and downwind side facing the fire. The EPA-ERT laboratory analyzed the wipe forty samples (with additional samples for field and laboratory blanks) for BNAs and metals. Laboratory results were shared with the health agencies, which then made recommendations on how the residents could cleanup fire debris from their

lawns and pools.

Current Activities

On Aug 15, 2005, analytical results were returned from the the wipe samples and bulk samples. After consultation with ATSDR, Wayne County Health Department, and the Michigan Department of Community Health, it was determined that the analytical results showed no level of concern to public health. A press conference was held to announce these results. All Rapid Assessment Tool (RAT) and Area Rae activities were terminated. EQ subcontractors continued to conduct perimeter air monitoring with Area Raes, with oversight and periodic confirmation by START. EQ began removing liquids stored in fractionation tanks in the front of the facility and transported them to a Clean Harbors in Sarnia, Ontario. These tanks were not impacted by the fire.

On August 16, 2005, a REAC Plant Pathologist was mobilized to the site to investigate possible impact to trees and plant life as a result of the fire. In the containment sump areas, EQ began removal of fire suppression water and free liquids, which originated from fire impacted containers. USCG-AST reviewed the Site Safety Plan, General Tank Transfer Plan, and Asbestos Abatement Plan.

On August 17, 2005, EQ mobilizes additional cleanup contractors. Incident Command identified immediate hazards that needed to be addressed prior to fire and insurance investigation. Hazards included: free liquids in containment; leaking tanks; and exposed asbestos. EQ began developing plans to address imminent hazards.

On August 18, 2005, EQ mobilized an asbestos abatement contractor to and begin the abatement. EQ cleanup contractors conducted an entry into the facility to assess free liquids and leaking tanks. Insurance investigators conducted an initial assessment.

On August 19, 2005, EQ's cleanup contractor began to address leaking tanks by applying non-aggressive patches. Five leaks were located in tank farm #3. Free liquids were identified in all three tank farms; #1, #2, and #3. Asbestos abatement activities continued. The Incident Commander and USCG continued to review the Health and Safety Plan and Work Plans. START continued to oversee the cleanup contractor to ensure contractor's work does not compromise the fire investigation.

On August 20, 2005, EQ's contractor completed the asbestos abatement. Approximately 300 linear feet of asbestos was removed. The Non-aggresive patching activities created additional leaks, therefore those activities ceased. Activities then focused on addressing free liquids and pumping out leaking tanks.

On August 21, EQ's contractor began pumping the sump from tank farm #3 containment. Approximately 200 gallons were removed from this area.

On August 22, EQ's contractor began removing liquids from tanks #42, #43, and #44. A total of 42,000 gallons of material including MIBK and MEK were removed from these tanks. Plans were also made to reduce the hot zone perimeter, once all leaks have been minimized and free product has been removed from the sump area.

Planned Removal Actions

1. Continue vacuum operations on the sump and tank farm areas.
2. Remove materials from leaking tanks.
3. Initiate fire and insurance investigations.

Next Steps

1. Conduct oversight and documentation of clean up activities.
2. Review the Site Plans, Air Monitoring Plans and Health and Safety Plans with USCG-AST

Key Issues

EPA will attempt to pursue an Administrative Order of Consent with the PRP to provide Removal oversight.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	$12,000.00	$10,000.00	$2,000.00	16.67%
USCG-AST	$0.00	$25,000.00	($25,000.00)	0.00%

ERT/REAC	$0.00	$113,642.00	($113,642.00)	0.00%
START	$0.00	$39,000.00	($39,000.00)	0.00%
ASPECT Aircraft	$20,000.00	$19,260.00	$740.00	3.70%
Intramural Costs				
USEPA - Direct (Region, HQ)	$0.00	$12,100.00	($12,100.00)	0.00%
Total Site Costs	$32,000.00	$219,002.00	($187,002.00)	-584.38%

* 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/EQResourceRecovery

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