

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region VI
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Wednesday, August 24, 2005

From: William Rhotenberry

Subject: AST Investigation
Helena Chemical
602 Holland Avenue, Mission, TX
Latitude: 26.2131000
Longitude: -98.3336000

POLREP No.:	5	Site #:	0606
Reporting Period:	08/24/2005	D.O. #:	
Start Date:		Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	7/12/2005	Response Type:	
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Assessment
CERCLIS ID #:	TXD980625008	Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

This site is a former pesticide formulation and packaging facility, and was the subject of corrective action by USEPA in 1982. Deterioration of the containment cap has raised concerns over potential health impacts from chlorinated pesticides.

Contamination of surrounding properties was addressed by previous TCEQ actions.

Current Activities

OSCs conducted an operational briefing at 0830 to outline tactics for the AST investigation and sampling. Fire, medical and law enforcement support was in place prior to initiating the entry. Law enforcement personnel attempted to contact occupants of adjacent homes, but reported that no one was home. Just prior to initiating entry, police officers closed traffic on Holland Avenue, Sixth Street and Perez Street as a precaution for passers-by.

The South Tank was opened first. Monitoring instruments (PID and multi-gas) showed no reaction. The tank was then visually examined through the access point and determined to be empty. The North Tank was opened next. Monitoring instruments (PID and multi-gas) showed no reaction. The tank was then visually examined through the access point and determined to contain approximately one inch of sludge.

Once confident that there was no risk of fire, explosion or pressure or vapor release, traffic was reopened. The roads were closed for approximately 30 minutes. The fire and medical units were released once the entry person was back on the ground, off air and examined by his Safety Officer.

The sludge in the North Tank was too shallow to be sampled by conventional means. The Team fabricated a "head" of clean absorbent gauze on a telescoping pole, and collected a sample. The recovered material appeared oily.

Planned Removal Actions

As appropriate following assessment

Next Steps

Continue sampling

Update and coordinate with community as appropriate

Key Issues

Heat

