

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region V
POLLUTION REPORT**

Date: Tuesday, September 13, 2005

From: Jon Gulch

To:	David Chung, U.S. EPA	Richard Karl, U.S. EPA
	Linda Nachowicz, U.S. EPA	Jason El-Zein, U.S. EPA
	Afif Marouf, U.S. EPA	Stuart Hill, U.S. EPA
	John Maritote, U.S. EPA	Maria Gonzalez, U.S. EPA
	Elissa Speizman, U.S. EPA	Phil Hoffman, U.S. EPA
	Kaushalya Khanna, U.S. EPA	Phillippa Cannon, US EPA
	Mary Canavan, US EPA	Mel Moore, Wayne Fire Department
	David Allison, Romulus Fire Department	Gary Zikovitz, Environment Canada
	Duty Officer, USCG	Tim Curry, USEPA Region7
	Mark Thomas, USEPA	Mark Johnson, ATSDR

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

POLREP No.:	6	Site #:	B5CL
Reporting Period:	August 31 - September 10, 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 August 31, 2005, EQ's contractor continued to remove materials from the fire damaged tanks for disposal. The U.S. EPA START contractor (START) continues work on-site documenting site activities through photos and written documentation, updating costs, and updating pollution reports.

On September 1, 2005, EQ's contractor removed the remaining sludge from tanks 1, 6 and 11. The insurance companies continued the on-site investigation. START continues oversight of the removal actions.

On September 2, 2005, EQ's contractor removed remaining material from tanks 8 and 10. The insurance companies continued its investigation. The EQ contractor began disposing of the damaged/burnt drums located on the drum pad. START continues oversight of the removal actions.

On September 3, 2005, EQ contractors finished cleaning tanks 15, 16, 34, 35, A, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25. START continues oversight of the removal actions.

On September 4, EQ's contractor began crushing empty drums located on the drum pad. Final cleaning of Tank 44 and the DES tank took place. START continues oversight of the removal actions.

On September 5, 2005, EQ's contractor continued crushing of drums on the drum pad. START continues oversight of the removal actions.

On September 6, 2005, EQ's contractor cleaned and off-loaded for disposal a tanker truck that was on-site during the fire. START continues oversight of the removal actions.

On September 7, 2005, EQ's contractor removed tank A from the tank containment area with a crane. Drum crushing and disposal continued. START continues oversight of the removal actions.

On September 8, 2005, EQ's contractor removed tanks 1, 8, and 11 from the tank containment area with a crane. Cleanup of the drum pad continued. START continues oversight of the removal actions and established a records repository in the City of Romulus.

On September 9, 2005, EQ's contractor removed eight roll-off boxes of debris from site for disposal. START continues oversight of the removal actions.

On September 10, 2005, all the tanks have been removed from the tank containment area and several have been cut up and placed in roll-off boxes for disposal. START continues oversight of the removal actions.

Planned Removal Actions

Continue EPA Oversight of the Removal Action.

Next Steps

Conduct oversight and documentation of clean-up activities.

Key Issues

EPA is continuing to work on an AOC with EQ.

A records repository was established at the Romulus Public Library located at 11121 Wayne Rd., Romulus, MI 48174 on Thursday, September 8, 2005.

response.epa.gov/EQResourceRecovery