

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2005

From: Terry Stilman

Subject: Final POLREP

Broken Sound Anthrax

5401 Broken Sound Blvd, Boca Raton, FL

POLREP No.:	7	Site #:	A46C
Reporting Period:	6/20/05 - 7/19/05	D.O. #:	0036
Start Date:	6/17/2005	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	6/17/2005	Response Type:	Emergency
Demob Date:	7/19/2005	NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:	7/19/2005	Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:		Contract #	68-S4-02-06
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.

On June 17, 2005, EPA OSC Stilman initiated an emergency action. A June 30, 2005, Action Memorandum authorized continued stabilization. Stabilization includes operation of the groundwater dewatering pumps to ensure that the parking garage does not flood until the building owner mobilizes a qualified contractor to assume this responsibility. EPA-ERT assisted EPA with stabilization. EPA also continued to provide technical assistance to the PBCHD.

Current Activities

From June 17, 2005 until demobe on July 19, 2005, EPA restaged 337 pallets on cinder blocks to limit contact between the boxes and potential flood water. EPA secured breached boxes by shrink wrapping 22 (of 337) pallets prior to restaging them. This technique ensured that Ba spores will not be further released into the air. EPA has operated the groundwater dewatering pumps manually to ensure that flooding does not recur. EPA has conducted all of the above in manner consistent with health and safety guidelines for Ba clean ups. EPA has used an approved decontamination system to ensure that workers are properly decontaminated as they egress.

Approximately 125 other pallets were autoclaved and returned to the parking garage. These pallets are wrapped in a tarp. It is not known if these were re contaminated by the flood. EPA left these in place. Also, 15 pallettes remain in the fume chamber. These were autoclaved, 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.

EPA has repaired the automated pumping system, which will allow for operation of the pump under non-emergency conditions outside of the contaminated area. The pump switch can also be operated manually from outside of the building. The building owner is currently working with a contractor to mobilize to the site to complete the clean-up. However, as of the date of this POLREP, clean-up mobilization has not occurred. No date has been set.

The ERRS sub-contractor demobilized on 15-JUL-05. On July 19, 2005, EPA demobed from the Site, and returned operation and maintenance of the pumping system over to the building owner. The PBCHD will oversee future activities on-site.

Planned Removal Actions

No other removal actions are planned by EPA. EPA will continue to provide technical assistance to the PBCHD through completion of the decontamination action.

Next Steps

Upon approval of plans submitted by the building owner, though the PBCHD, EPA will provide oversight of work, as needed.

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