

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

**Date:** Friday, June 2, 2006

**From:** Perry Gaughan

**Subject:** Synthron Chemical Fire  
305 Amherst Road, Morganton, NC  
Latitude: 35.7569000  
Longitude: -81.6600000

<b>POLREP No.:</b>	5	<b>Site #:</b>	A4LD
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	05/12/06 - 06/02/06	<b>D.O. #:</b>	
<b>Start Date:</b>	5/9/2006	<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA
<b>Mob Date:</b>	5/8/2006	<b>Response Type:</b>	Time-Critical
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL
<b>Completion Date:</b>		<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>CERCLIS ID #:</b>	NCD982121790	<b>Contract #</b>	
<b>RCRIS ID #:</b>			

#### Site Description

For Site description and background information, refer to previous POLREP.

#### Current Activities

##### Hazardous Materials Activities

Total drum inventory is 684 and over 450 drums have been sampled and hazcatted. More than 200 totes have been collected on site. Above storage tanks 1-15 and 20-21 have been sampled and hazcatted. One unopened drum of liquid organic peroxide has been removed from site for reuse. Large quantity of lab chemicals have been recovered from an office trailer on site. Additional lab chemicals, unbreached drums, and totes remain in the ruins of the structure and will be recovered as demolition continues. WRS is contacting suppliers for removal of unopened chemicals on site and will schedule lab packing of recovered lab chemicals. ERRS chemist is contacting the manufacturers of unopened raw materials to schedule returns. All compressed gas cylinders have been removed from the site.

##### Building Demolition Activities

NC Dept. of Public Health approved asbestos demolition permit pending the selection of landfill for asbestos containing material. START developed and implemented asbestos perimeter monitoring and personal samplers during demolition activities. Synthron management provided location of two underground storage tanks on site. One has been closed in place and the other is permitted for fuel oil, but is not longer in use. Natural gas company removed gas meter and purged lines through property. ERRS filled nitrogen tank on site to purge process lines containing solvents prior to demolition. Damaged Sales Office trailer and pipe rack from tank farm to building have been demolished. Crew is removing the roof structure of main building to obtain access to reactors. Fencing was installed around area where office trailer was located and area was cleared to stage recovered items for forensic evidence examination.

##### Wastewater Disposal Activities

Received sample analysis for all 12 Frac tanks. FT 1-6 will require pretreatment prior to discharge to the POTW. Cost analysis of pretreatment vs. off-site treatment/disposal indicated the latter to be most cost effective. Sent samples of FT 7-12 to SESD for LC-50 test as requested by POTW. Results expected the week of 6/12. POTW is analyzing samples from FT 7-12 for TSS. Expect disposal of FT 7-12 to POTW beginning the week of 6/12 through 6/23.

##### Off Site Activities

Soil sediment analysis from the stormwater ditches on both sides of Amherst Rd and Hunting Creek showed no contaminate above the industrial soil sediment PRGs. Copy of analysis was forwarded to Laura Niles and Catamba Riverkeepers. Charlotte Channel 9 News on site 6/2 for footage for a short update on the site. Synthron provided information on location of USTs, electronic version of raw material MSDSs, and profiles for hazardous waste drums.

##### Misc. Activities

Coast Guard mobed on site 5/31. USCG is providing perimeter dust monitoring during demolition activities and site radio communications. USCG will provide H&S and oversight assistance during forensic evidence recovery.

### **Planned Removal Actions**

Continue demolition of main building to recover hazardous materials. Continue sampling and hazcatting of drums, totes, and tanks. Complete the forensic evidence recovery for NC OSHA and CSB. Begin discharge of FT 7-12 to POTW. Continue perimeter monitoring for dust and asbestos during demolition activities.

### **Key Issues**

Forensic evidence recovery  
Disposal of wastewater for off site treatment and to POTW.  
Disposition of unopened raw materials  
Bulking of hazardous and non-hazardous waste for disposal  
Asbestos segregation and removal  
Demolition of main building and boiler rooms  
Inventory of assets that will be left on site

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