

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region I
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Thursday, March 1, 2007

From: Tom Condon

Subject: American Tissue Mills of Maine
54 Maple Street, Augusta, ME
Latitude: 44.3200000
Longitude: -69.7683000

POLREP No.:	1	Site #:	01DM
Reporting Period:		D.O. #:	0058
Start Date:	10/23/2006	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	10/23/2006	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:	MED985731272	Contract #	68-W-03-037
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

The American Tissue Mills of Maine (ATM) Site is the former location of a tissue paper mill, which, prior to 2001 was operated by American Tissue Mills of Maine. In 2001, the company declared chapter 11 bankruptcy, and ceased operation of the mill. The mill was acquired by Augusta Tissue LLC in March 2003. Augusta Tissue LLC has not resumed operation of the mill. The facility has been unsecured and unheated since operations ceased in 2001. Most of the facility has been without electrical power since that time. Two former employees of American Tissue have been retained in a part-time capacity by Augusta Tissue. One of the responsibilities of these employees was to maintain a series of propane fueled heaters to keep the chemicals in the drums, totes, tanks and piping from freezing during winter. At one point this past winter, the propane supply at the site ran out. ATM did not provide their employees with any funds to procure additional fuel, and the facility has been unheated since that time. Reportedly, the employees have not been paid for their services for several months. Electrical service was maintained in the office portion of the complex, until a fire destroyed the office on May 15, 2006.

Current Activities

On 23 October, 2006, EPA mobilized to the site with its contractors and from that date through November 17, 2006 performed the following site activities:

- Compiled an inventory of drums, totes and other small containers found throughout the site. All of these containers were moved to a temporary staging area on the ground floor of one of the mill buildings. Information was collected to assist in assigning each container to an appropriate waste stream for transportation and disposal. Efforts were made to isolate the staging area from the remainder of the mill, and portable heaters were used to keep the chemicals from freezing, pending transportation and disposal.
- Removed and secured two thickness gauges from the paper manufacturing machines. These gauges each contain a Krypton 85 radiation source. The gauges were packed in a 55 gallon drum and secured on site, pending transportation and disposal/recycling.
- Inventoried the bulk storage tanks. The tanks were gauged to obtain an estimated volume for each tank. Preparations are underway to arrange for the transportation and treatment/disposal of the contents of the tanks.
- Inventoried the transformers and capacitors located throughout the site. Twenty eight large transformers containing PCB contaminated oil were identified. Small electrical devices (transformers, capacitors, etc.) were collected and stored in the temporary staging area pending transportation and disposal.

During the week of January 22, 2007 EPA and its contractors initiated transportation and disposal operations at the site. The small containers in the staging area were consolidated into total of 33 lab packs, which were transported off site for disposal. In addition, eighty four 55 gallon drums and thirty two

230 gallon totes were shipped off site for disposal.

During the week of February 5, 2007, EPA and its contractors drained PCB contaminated oil from 27 transformers at the site. A total of 2,250 gallons of PCB contaminated oil was shipped off site to be used as fuel. The thickness gauges containing radioactive sources were also shipped off site to be recycled.

Planned Removal Actions

Winter weather conditions make the removal of bulk liquids from storage tanks impracticable. EPA will remobilize to the site in the spring to remove and dispose of these chemicals.

A large number of small electrical devices and one large transformer containing PCB contaminated oil remain on site. EPA will also address these containers upon remobilization in the spring.

Next Steps

EPA will resume on site activities in the spring.

Key Issues

Maine DEP has contributed to the clean up at the site by removing approximately fifty 55 gallon drums of non-hazardous oil. DEP also disposed of approximately 3,000 gallons of non-PCB contaminated oil from transformers at the site, and approximately 3,000 gallons of solmet oil from a tank found at the site.

response.epa.gov/ATM