

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region VI
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Friday, February 23, 2007

From: William Rhotenberry

To: Ragan Broyles, Prevention and Response Branch
Debbie Dietrich, Office of Emergency Management

Subject: Gravel Trench Unexpectedly Found
Helena Chemical
602 Holland Avenue, Mission, TX
Latitude: 26.2131000
Longitude: -98.3336000

POLREP No.:	33	Site #:	0606
Reporting Period:	02/17 - 23/2007	D.O. #:	
Start Date:	2/9/2006	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	2/13/2006	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:	TXD980625008	Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

In late September 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began the removal clean up at the Helena Chemical Company facility (site) in Mission, Texas. The removal action involves digging up the contaminated soil within the on-site facility property underneath a deteriorating asphalt cap.

Current Activities

Excavation in area #6 about 25 feet East of Mixing Plant on site revealed a plastic lined gravel trench. The trench was found approximately one foot below ground surface with a two foot square area wide. A strong pesticide like odor is being emitted from the trench. Excavation in this area has been covered and postponed until further soil and air samples are analyzed. Sample analysis is expected to take a week for processing. A nontoxic deodorizer has been used to negate the strong odor and further investigation is pending.

Excavation of contaminated soil continued in excavation areas #1 through #6. A depth of approximately 1 to 8 feet has been removed from each 25 foot square grid. Maps can be found online in the 'documents' section of this web site. The maps are labeled 'Primary and Secondary Excavation Maps.'

As of February 23, 2007 EPA has excavated and stockpiled approximately 8,400 cubic yards of soil for further analysis and waste characterization. To date, EPA has removed approximately 7,700 cubic yards of contaminated soil for off site transportation and disposal. Additionally, EPA has removed approximately 315 tons of contaminated concrete for off site transportation and disposal.

Approximately, 100% of Area #1, 100% of Area #2, 100% of Area #3, 100% of Area #4, 32% of Area 5 and 17% of Area 6 has been confirmed by soil analysis to be below Texas Risk Reduction Program (TRRP) commercial / industrial clean up levels for all contaminants of concern.

Backfill has been placed over excavated areas that have been confirmed below TRRP clean up levels. Approximately, 100% of Area #1, 100% of Area #2, 100% of Area #3 and 100% of Area #4 has backfill in place.

Excavated soils are being stockpiled on Site for further analysis and waste characterization. A plastic sheathing is being used to cover all stockpiles and excavated holes on Site to minimize offsite migration of odors, dust, and the potential for contaminated storm water runoff. A frac tank has been mobilized on Site and will be used for containment and water quality sampling of any potentially contaminated storm water. Approximately 37,000 gallons of storm water runoff was stored in two tanks on Site. This liquid has been sampled and cleared for offsite transportation and disposal to a commercial treatment/deep well injection facility located in Corpus Christi, Texas. Seven (7) - 5,000-gallon load (approximately 35,000 gallons

total) trucks have been used for the transported and disposal.

To date, 753 particulate and gaseous phase air samples, 147 confirmation of cleanup soil samples, 3 backfill source soil samples, 4 sludge/sediment samples, and 2 water samples have been collected and submitted to a fixed laboratory for analysis. All pesticide particulate and vapors levels on-site and in the surrounding community have been below the site-specific action levels.

An EPA community office trailer is available on Site. A map which will have updated daily information on particulate air monitoring data is being posted next to the entrance of the office trailer for the public to stop by and view. This information will also be available in hard copy and electronic format. The office is open to allow community members an opportunity to speak with an EPA representative in person about any questions or concerns they may have about ongoing Site activities. This office has up to date and current information available in both English and Spanish.

Planned Removal Actions

Review soil analysis for waste profiling and characterization.

Transportation and disposal of contaminated soil and storm water from Site.

Next Steps

Continue excavation of contaminated soil underneath asphalt cap.

Continue to conduct air monitoring and sampling on Site and in the community.

Continue off site transportation and disposal of contaminated soil and storm water.

Continue site restoration with clean backfill soil in excavation areas that have met clean up goals for site.

Key Issues

EPA is committed to the public health and safety of its workers and the neighboring community. Results of the air monitoring and air sampling have indicated that the dust control measures taken are effective.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

response.epa.gov/helenachemicalmission

POLREP #33 Last Updated 2/23/2007