

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

**Date:** Monday, April 28, 2008

**From:** Randy Nattis

**Subject:** Columbia Organic Chemical Company  
912 Drake Street, Columbia, SC  
Latitude: 33.9822000  
Longitude: -80.9586000

<b>POLREP No.:</b>	4	<b>Site #:</b>	A4NH
<b>Reporting Period:</b>		<b>D.O. #:</b>	
<b>Start Date:</b>	1/7/2008	<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA
<b>Mob Date:</b>	1/7/2008	<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>		<b>Contract #</b>	
<b>RCRIS ID #:</b>			

### Site Description

The Columbia Organic Chemical Company (COCC) site is located at 912 Drake Street in Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina. The site is a three acre property surrounded by a mixture of residential and commercial properties. The site is bounded to the northwest by Drake Street, to the southwest by Bruce Street, to the east by residential properties along True Street, and to the north by the former M.B. Kahn Construction Company property. Several multi-unit residences and one single dwelling home are located within 50 yards of the site across Drake Street.

COCC owned and operated a specialty chemical facility from the 1944 until 1984 at which time the operation was relocated to the Cassatt community in Kershaw County, South Carolina. A wide variety of chemicals were produced at the facility, including insecticide formulations, industrial cleaners, and small quantities of specialty chemicals for use in research. Several hundred chemicals were manufactured at the plant. The primary product lines included bromine, iodine substituted aliphatics, mercaptans, alkyl phosphonates, nitriles, and dimethyl sulfide.

The original plant was destroyed by fire in 1958. The plant was subsequently rebuilt on its original location; however, over the years several other fires damaged various parts of the facility. During the course of the facility's operation, Records suggest that soils on the site were contaminated by waste materials which were spilled, dumped, or buried on-site. Records suggest that during the 1970's COCC installed a chemical holding tank, or sump, to collect liquid wastes. Records suggest that much of the waste collected in the tank eventually leaked out.

### Current Activities

Transport and Disposal (T&D) of dioxin contaminated soils started on April 28, 2008. Disposal should last approximately 10 days, weather depending.

Based on the analytical results of the confirmation samples, further excavations will be required. 5 side wall samples and 2 areas underneath removed concrete pads are above the Removal Action Limit (RAL) of 1 part per billion (ppb).

During the removal action, a number of amber jars, 1 drum and 1 cylinder were unearthed. The cylinder was empty as well as the drum, but the amber jars contain an unknown liquid. There was staining around jars as well as an over powering odor. The soil around the jars were sampled and sent off for analysis.

Please visit [www.epaossc.org/sites/2960/files/clpsummaryreportrev1.pdf](http://www.epaossc.org/sites/2960/files/clpsummaryreportrev1.pdf)

### Planned Removal Actions

Based on the results from the samples, a further assessment is warranted and will start after T&D of all dioxin contaminated soils is completed.

### Next Steps

Meet with DHEC and community after assessment to discuss findings and discuss further activities if needed. Otherwise, turn the site back over to DHEC.

**Key Issues**

- Possible unknown burial areas containing jars, drums and other unknowns.
- Surface water runoff.
- Neighborhood safety during excavation and further assessment activities
- Further environmental assessment of Kahn property by Concurrent Technologies Corporation (Phase 2)
- Residential neighborhood
- Groundwater plume

[response.epa.gov/COCC](https://response.epa.gov/COCC)