

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

**Date:** Tuesday, July 1, 2008

**From:** Randy Nattis

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

<b>POLREP No.:</b>	5	<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 has been completed.

Based on the results of the analysis from the unearthed jars and drum the OSC determined that further assessment using exploratory trenching was necessary. During the trenching assessment, two additional bottles were found and a continued odor from the soil was noticeable around the four foot to six foot range. The two bottles were sent off for analysis. The results from the bottles showed the contents of the bottles contained pesticides. The trenched areas were covered back up.

The site has been brought back up to grade from the excavation depth using clean off site fill and riprap. Then the excavated areas were re-graded to improve drainage and prevent storm water runoff traveling offsite. The excavated areas were then seeded to prevent soil erosion.

#### **Planned Removal Actions**

No further removal actions anticipated at this time.

#### **Next Steps**

Based on the observations of the staining of the soils, jars found at depth and the odor of the soils as well

as the known groundwater issues based on the SCDHEC reports and data, the OSC feels that further investigation by the EPA remedial program may be required.

The OSC will refer the site to the EPA Remedial program.

A final POLREP to follow

**Key Issues**

Groundwater

Soil odor and staining at depths below 3 feet

Adjoining neighborhood

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