

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2008

From: Terry Tanner

Subject: Removal Site Evaluation

VCC Wando

2390 Baker Hospital Blvd., Charleston, SC

Latitude: 32.8371000

Longitude: -79.9700000

POLREP No.:	1	Site #:	A4WH
Reporting Period:	Sept 2008	D.O. #:	
Start Date:		Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:		Response Type:	Time-Critical
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Assessment
CERCLIS ID #:		Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

The Site is the location of a complete fertilizer production plant. Fertilizer manufacturing began at the Site prior to 1884 and continued until 1924. A review of historical Sanborn maps provides the layout and components of the VCC Wando facility. The Site was used for acid production included an acid chamber structure, an ore shed, a nitre house, pyrite burners, sulfur burners, a sulfur shed, a bunk house, a nitrate of soda house, a chlorination building, a laboratory, a rock shed, a concentrating building, and rail sidings.

Plant operations were conducted along the Ashley River on the parcel currently occupied by the Osprey Place Apartment complex. Based on information gathered from land deeds, the combined area of the Site is approximately 74 acres; however, the former plant was located on approximately 11 acres along the Ashley River front. The property has since been subdivided and currently occupies 7 separate tax parcels

In April 2008 ExxonMobil's contractor conducted a Removal Site Evaluation and submitted the results to EPA. In August 2008, the RSE report was forwarded to the EPA Region 4 Emergency Response and Removal Branch (ERRB) for consideration using CERCLA removal authorities. In September 2008, ERRB completed a review of the site information and concluded that the site meets the criteria as set forth in 40 CFR 300.415 (b) (2) for a time-critical removal action.

Current Activities

EPA is currently negotiating an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with ExxonMobil to conduct a Removal Action at the Wando Site. The removal action will consist of additional site characterization activities followed by removal of the impacted soils at the Site which exceed Removal Action Levels.

On August 26, 2008, EPA and ExxonMobil met with representatives from the property owner and North Charleston Councilman Brown. Issues discussed were sampling results and planned removal activities. EPA, in conjunction with ExxonMobil and Osprey Place Apartment management, disseminated informational flyers to the residents of the apartment complex. Representatives from EPA and ExxonMobil's Contractor, ARCADIS, were available for two days to address resident's questions and concerns regarding the assessment and removal. During the two day period only two residents had general questions.

ExxonMobil has submitted an Interim Soil Removal Work Plan for EPA review and approval. The Plan outlines ExxonMobil's plan to assess and remove impacted soils in and around the apartment complex playground. The remainder of the site will be assessed after the effective date of the AOC.

Planned Removal Actions

ExxonMobil will initiate a voluntary removal action of the impacted soils in and around the playground at the Osprey Place Apartment complex. Once ExxonMobil enters into an AOC with EPA, the remainder of the site will be assessed of contamination and a removal action work plan will be developed and submitted to EPA for comment and approval.

Next Steps

ExxonMobil is in talks with the property owner to gain access so the playground removal action can take place.

response.epa.gov/vccwando