

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

Date: Thursday, October 30, 2008
From: Paul L. Kahn, Michael Hoppe

To:	Paul Kahn, ERRD-RPB	Tim Grier, USEPA Headquarters 5202G
	Patricia Carr, USEPA-PAD	Mary Mears, USEPA, Region 2, PAD
	Ellen Banner, USEPA	John LaPadula, USEPA
	Carole Petersen, USEPA	Jim Daloia, USEPA
	Eric Mosher, USEPA	John Higgins, USEPA
	Gregory Deangelis, USEPA Region 2	Andrew Raddant, Department of Interior
	Deborah Schwenk, USEPA	Lisa Levy, OSHA
	Michael Hoppe, USEPA	Kevin McCarthy, Clifton Fire Department
	William Molnar, Sandy Alexander	Albert Greco, City of Clifton
	Tara Donn, USEPA Region 02 CID	Leah Escobar, ATSDR
	Denise Zeno, USEPA	Angela Carpenter, USEPA
	Melissa Dimas, USEPA	

Subject: Abrachem Chemical
2 Peekay Drive, Clifton, NJ
Latitude: 40.8306000
Longitude: -74.1231000

POLREP No.:	2 Site #:	
Reporting Period:	D.O. #:	
Start Date:	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	Response Type:	Emergency
Demob Date:	NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:	Incident Category:	Removal Assessment
CERCLIS ID #:	Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:		

Site Description

At 1615 hours on 10/29/08 EPA received a phone notification from the NRC that a chemical release was occurring at Abrachem Chemical, a bulk chemical packaging facility that leases property in Clifton, Passaic County, NJ. The NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection requested EPA presence at the scene.

At 1730 hours OSC Ellen Banner and OSC Paul Kahn responded to the scene. The company was found to be storing drums and bulk storage containers of known and unknown chemicals in 17 56-foot long intermodal shipping carriers, stacked 3 tiers high (approx. 35 feet). Only 5 of the intermodals could be opened, and inside those it was observed that drums and bulk containers were staged behind tiers of new, blue poly drums which gave the impression that the intermodals were used only for new drum storage.

The owner of Abrachem retained the services of a remediation company which was on the scene, but waiting for EPA to arrive prior to starting work. Contractor personnel were advised to lay poly sheeting and begin removing/overpacking the leaking and unknown drums that were readily accessible. Work commenced almost immediately, but at 2100 hours work was halted due to lack of adequate lighting and the physical inability to access the majority of the drums. Work will resume on 10/30/08 when additional personnel and equipment arrive on-Site.

A meeting was held with the owner, EPA, state, and local authorities at 1000 hours on 10/30/08. At that time a Field Expedient Notice was issued to the owner of Abrachem and the owner of the property who leases the building to Abrachem.

Current Activities

The company's remediation contractor has resumed limited work, but is constrained by a broken forklift which is preventing access to other intermodal containers.

OSCs met with owner of company on 10/30 to discuss situation. Also in attendance were reps from the

Passaic County Health Dept. and Building Code Enforcement, the Clifton FD, and the attorney for the RP. After some discussion the RP was issued a Field Expedient Notice and given until 11/4/08 to reply to EPA as to his intentions to perform the removal action.

Operator of company provided the name and address of the company that owns the property from whom the RP leases the building and land.

Planned Removal Actions

EPA will observe RP removal activities on 10/31, 11/3 and 11/4, at which time the RP will indicate his intentions regarding the removal action.

Next Steps

Monitor RP removal efforts, prepare contingency plans in the event RP decides it cannot or will not undertake the removal action.

Key Issues

Site security is a concern, given the history of, and on-going fire code violations.

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/abrachemchemical

POLREP #2 Last Updated 10/30/2008