PROGRESS POLREP

I. HEADING

Date: December 21, 1990
From: Paula A. Cammarata, OSC
E.J. Makarewicz, OSC
To: C. Sidamon-Eristoff, RA
R. Caspe, ZERRD
R. Salkie, ZERR-ADREPP
J. Marshall, Z0EP
ERD, Washington (E-Mail)
D. Becker, 2PSB
D. Oster, NJDEP
L. Voyce, ATSDR
TAT
W. Muszynski, DRA
G. Zachos, ZERR-RAB
J. Frisco, ZERR-ADNJP
B. Aber, Z0RC-NJSUP
J. Trela, NJDEP
R. Swales, OEM
A. Zach, City of Newark
A. Apostolico, NFD

Subject: White Chemical Company, 660 Frelinghuysen Ave., Newark, Essex County, New Jersey

POLREP No.: POLREP 14

II. BACKGROUND

Site No.: 6J
D.O. No.: 7445-02-102
Response Authority: CERCLA/SARA
NPL Status: Non-NPL
Start Date: October 1, 1990

III. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Situation

The White Chemical Company was an acid chloride manufacturer whose facility is currently under Chapter 11 proceedings. Approximately 9000 drums and numerous cylinders, tanks, and laboratory materials, including acids, corrosives, and flammable liquids, exist on-site. On August 30, 1990, the Removal Action Branch received a request from NJDEP to perform an assessment for CERCLA Removal consideration at the White Chemical Company.

At the time of the preliminary assessment, White Chemical's management personnel were present on-site and continued to work. During the preliminary assessment of 09/07/90, a number of fuming drums were observed. The OSC requested access from White Chemical in order to address the hazards presented by the fuming drums. The owner of White Chemical granted access to the site and permission to overpack targeted drums. To assist in the overpacking, the OSC
received verbal approval for CERCLA funding and subsequently initiated mobilization of the Emergency Response Cleanup Services (ERCS) contractor, O.H. Materials (OHM).

B. Actions Taken

1. Site activity continued throughout the week.
   a. Air-filtration systems for the conference and guard trailers were installed.
   b. Two community relations specialists continued to identify the target population for the community outreach program. The Newark Housing Authority has provided a list of residences in the Seth Boyden housing project. This will insure proper dissemination of pertinent information to the public.
   c. ERCS continued the transfer of material from open containers to sealed drums. A total of 110 open top containers have been transferred to sealed drums. This operation is expected to continue after the Holiday break.
   d. ERCS continued a cylinder inventory in order to supply EPA with a list of manufacturers names. To date, ninety-six cylinders have been identified and TAT will begin to notify the cylinder manufacturers to arrange removal dates.
   e. The contents of tank #43 have been removed and are being stored on site in 14 fifty five gallon drums. ERCS emptied the tank to alleviate the potential problems caused by a leaking sight glass at the bottom of the tank.
   f. ERCS began the process of "winterizing" the facility. Actions taken included: draining the process boilers; shutting the water service to building 35 off; and draining all sprinkler systems and other pipes of water. All of the watermains coming into the buildings on-site have been shut done, with the exception of building 33.
   g. ERCS moved all of the shock sensitive materials stored in building 34 to building 36, a fortified concrete building on the southern corner of the site.

2. Mr. White, the former operator, was on-site to conduct an inventory of his saleable product and usable equipment. Mr. White has identified approximately 175 drums and pallets that he would like to remove from the site. In addition, Mr. White has identified various pieces of laboratory equipment he would also like to remove.
3. On Thursday, December 20th, The City of Newark EMS visited the site for familiarization purposes. At this time all EMS supervisory personnel have had a site familiarization tour. TAT provided EMS with a site map demarcating all work zones and personnel egress gates.

4. The second meeting of the White Chemical Task Force was held on Wednesday, December 19, at the City of Newark Fire Training Academy. Attendees included: Newark Housing Authority; Newark OEM; Newark Fire Department; ATSDR and the City Engineering Dept.

5. ATSDR and NIOSH were on-site 12/17 - 12/18/90 and conducted a health survey of the workers at the Personality Handkerchief Company. During the survey, no internal factors were discovered that would lead to the health complaints received in the past. A continuing survey is being conducted to examine external factors that may have led to the generation of these complaints.

6. The OSC met with a representative of the Anheuser-Busch Newark facility to discuss contingency plans and plant notification procedures in the event of a release.

C. Next Steps

1. TAT will begin notifying the cylinder manufactures and identifying labels on drums for possible return to the original manufacture.

2. Three tanks with leaking valves will be addressed and emptied.

3. The White Chemical Task force will meet again on 01/02/91.

5. Work on the site will temporarily halt between the dates of 12/22/90 to 01/02/90.

D. Key Issues

1. All recommendations regarding EPA in the ATSDR health advisory issued 11/26/90 have been addressed by EPA.

2. ORC is drafting a memo to the City of Newark and the Passaic Valley Sewer Authority, outlining EPA authority at CERCLA funded removal actions.

3. The second fact sheet in Polish was distributed to local businesses within the area on 12/19/90.
4. The OSC received notice on 12/20/90 from the City of Newark regarding a White Chemical Co. delinquent water bill totaling $27,500. This was to serve as a shutoff notice effective 12/28/90. As a result of this notice, the OSC met with the City Engineer and OEM. It was agreed that EPA will assume financial responsibility for the water and sewage costs as of 12/01/90 until completion of the removal action. The pre-existing bill will be forwarded to NJDEP and Mr. White for settlement.

5. EPA received a summons from Transtech Industries (Kin-Buc) via the U.S. Marshals office. The U.S. Marshall refused to acknowledge the security guards statements that this facility is an EPA clean up and no longer the White Chemical Corp. the summons names the White Chemical Corp. as a PRP for the Kin-Buc landfill site. The OSC has been in contact with the Law firm representing Transtech Industries and explained the situation.

6. NIOSH findings revealed that there are no air intakes at Personality Handkerchief; only exhaust fans. Therefore, the only ambient air entering the building is when the employees open the doors. These doors are not on the adjacent side of White Chemical.

NIOSH also conducted air monitoring at Personality Handkerchief and found nothing detectable. NIOSH will return in the summer months when employees last had symptoms of irritation.

7. The State Department of Health Physician who has been assisting ATSDR and NIOSH in their health investigation has offered her assistance in our Community Relations Outreach Program.

8. The State Department of Health has strongly recommended both OSCs to continue medical care for symptoms from the White Chemical site and has recommended we visit with an Industrial Physician. It is of NIOSH and State DOH opinion that there may be the possibility of continual exposure to a contaminant we are not detecting.
### IV. COST INFORMATION

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**FURTHER POLREPS**

**FINAL POLREP FORTHCOMING X SUBMITTED BY**

Paula A. Cammarata, OSC
Removal Action Branch

**DATE** **12-21-90**