Subject: POLREP #1
Removal Assessment
R207 LLC Drum Site

Ruther Glen, VA
Latitude: 37.9296234 Longitude: -77.4539489

To: Ed Bonham, Caroline County Fire & Rescue
Tammy Gumbita, VDEQ
Mark Miller, VDEQ
Joe Taylor, VDEM
Regional Response RRC, EPA

From: Christine Wagner, OSC

Date: 3/9/2012
Reporting Period: 3/8/2012

1. Introduction

1.1 Background
Site Number: 
D.O. Number: 
Response Authority: CERCLA
Response Lead: EPA
NPL Status: Non NPL
Mobilization Date: 
Demob Date: 
CERCLIS ID: 
ERNS No.: 
FPN#: 
Contract Number: 
Action Memo Date: 
Response Type: 
Incident Category: 
Operable Unit: 
Start Date: 
Completion Date: 
RCRIS ID: 
State Notification: 
Reimbursable Account #: 

1.1.1 Incident Category
Removal Assessment

1.1.2 Site Description
Unsecured trailer of drums of unknown content.

1.1.2.1 Location
Chesterfield Road
Ruther Glen, Caroline County, VA
1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Approximately 50 drums of unknown contents are stored in an unsecured trailer on the Site. Some of the drums contain volatile and flammable materials.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

EPA is assisting the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality with possible sampling and disposal of the drums if the potentially responsible party does not take action in a timely manner.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

In 2011, the Caroline County Office of Fire and Emergency Services was made aware of the presence of 55-gallon drums stored on an unoccupied Site. Further investigation revealed that the property was leased. The tenant had an agreement with a third party to store the drums in a trailer on the Site. VDEQ requested information from the owner regarding the content of the drums. Allegedly, the drums contained "old paint." However, further investigation revealed the drums may also contain flammable substances and/or hazardous waste.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

VDEQ has been working with the owner of the drums to encourage the owner to remove and dispose of the drums in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations. VDEQ has also asked the owner to collect samples and provide the analysis to VDEQ. To date, this action has not been taken.

VDEQ requested EPA presence on scene on 3/8/12 for a meeting with all parties involved in the incident. The following agencies/individuals were present:

Virginia Dept of Environmental Quality (VDEQ)
Virginia Dept of Emergency Management (VDEM)
Caroline County Fire & Rescue
Caroline County Sheriff's Office
Owner of property
Leasee of the property
Representative for the owner of the drums (the owner was not present)

A representative for the owner of the drums brought several open boxes of drums samples which she said were collected from the drums. The samples were stored in commercial food jars and were labelled with numbers. The representative did not have a chain of custody for the samples. The samples were not preserved. This representative inquired about what type of analysis was needed. VDEQ Gumbita and EPA Wagner explained that the samples (at least the liquids) could not be analyzed in the current condition because they had not been preserved according to proper sampling protocols.

VDEM HMO Taylor performed air monitoring in the back of the trailer to determine if immediate mitigation efforts were needed. VDEM noted that some of the drums tops had been removed (likely for sampling) and replaced, but not secured. VDEM also reported that some of the drums had compromised tops from being opened forcefully with some type of punch tool. However, VDEM HMO Taylor determined that immediate emergency mitigative actions were not necessary.

VDEQ requested permission from the representative with the samples to have the headspace tested by VDEM. The representative agreed. VDEM HMO Taylor used a combination photoionization detector/4-gas meter (MultiRAE Plus) to screen the headspace of the samples. Most of the liquid samples were under pressure generated by volatilization of contents. Solid samples were not tested. VDEM also selected 6 samples to screen with the HazMat ID portable FTIR chemical detector. This instrument uses infrared detector to compare the unknown to a library of chemicals. The results of these tests can be found in the DOCUMENTS section of the website.

Following this testing, VDEM concluded that volatile and flammable substances are contained in some of the drums.
the drums.

VDEQ and EPA advised the representative for the owner of the drums that the owner should contract with an established environmental contractor for proper sampling, analysis, and disposal. VDEQ and EPA also recommended that the contractor's sampling plan be provided to VDEQ for review.

EPA OSC Wagner provided verbal notice of potential liability to the representative for the owner of the drums and also to the property owner. However, since the owner of the drums is known, this individual is the primary person responsible for leaving the drums unsecured, which may pose a threat to public health, welfare, or the environment.

The samples were transported to the Site in a private vehicle. No shipping papers were present. Caroline County Fire Investigator Bonham recommended to the person transporting the samples that the samples be left on Site so that the driver would not be exposed to these substances. The driver agreed and the samples were left on the Site.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

EPA has identified a potentially responsible party. Because the PRP is an individual, his/her name is being maintained in a separate EPA file.

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

VDEQ gave the drums' owner representative notice that if appropriate actions were not taken by April 2, VDEQ would request EPA take action to properly sample and dispose of the drums.

EPA OSC Wagner informed VDEQ that based on the preliminary field results, a removal action may be appropriate.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

EPA will prepare a sampling plan and make the logistical arrangements necessary to perform a proper sampling event.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

VDEQ will continue to coordinate with VDEM and EPA regarding next steps.

2.2.2 Issues

The owner of these drums also had unsecured drums at two other locations in Caroline County. The drums from the secondary locations have been removed. VDEQ has been working with the owner to encourage a proper PRP cleanup. However, the owner of the drums has been notified that if proper actions are not taken within the next several weeks, VDEQ will request additional EPA action.

The trailer is marked with placard 2212. Using the references provided to the First Responder, this placard indicates the presence of waste asbestos. The trailer is not in transit; however, this marking may mislead responders of the contents of the trailer.

2.3 Logistics Section

EPA is preparing the logistics for a future sampling event. This will include EPA's contractor and the proper personal protective equipment and decontamination equipment necessary to perform a full sampling event.

2.4 Finance Section

2.4.1 Narrative

At this time, EPA activities are limited to technical assistance to VDEQ.
2.5 Other Command Staff
2.5.1 Safety Officer
Caroline County Fire & Emergency Services
Caroline County Sheriff's Office

3. Participating Entities
3.1 Unified Command
Caroline County Fire & Rescue
Caroline County Sheriff's Office
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Virginia Department of Emergency Management
EPA

4. Personnel On Site
Virginia Dept of Environmental Quality (VDEQ)
Virginia Dept of Emergency Management (VDEM)
Caroline County Fire & Rescue
Caroline County Sheriff's Office
Owner of property
Leasee of the property
Representative for the owner of the drums (the owner was not present)

5. Definition of Terms
PRP - Potentially Responsible Party
VOCs - Volatile Organic Compounds
FTIR - Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy

6. Additional sources of information
6.1 Internet location of additional information/report
None at this time. This Site is still in the investigative stage

6.2 Reporting Schedule

7. Situational Reference Materials
No information available at this time.