

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

**Date:** Monday, March 9, 2009

**From:** Jack D. Harmon

**To:** Jack Harmon, USEPA, 2ERRD-RAB                      Mike Basile, USEPA Region II

**Subject:** Buckbee-Mears  
30 Kellogg Road, Cortland, NY  
Latitude: 42.5920000  
Longitude: -76.1581800

<b>POLREP No.:</b>	23	<b>Site #:</b>	YH
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	02/01/2009 - 03/08/2009	<b>D.O. #:</b>	EP-W-04-054-044
<b>Start Date:</b>	1/10/2007	<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA
<b>Mob Date:</b>		<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>	NYN000205908	<b>Contract #</b>	EP-W-06-072
<b>RCRIS ID #:</b>			

**Site Description**

The facility is located at 30 Kellogg Road, City of Cortland, Cortland County, New York. The property is approximately 50 acres in size and contained a large main production building, interconnected with several smaller production buildings, an office building and several support buildings, including a flammable storage building and a hazardous waste storage garage (buildings one through five). The total size of the facility buildings was estimated at 367,000 ft before buildings one and two were razed in 2008.

The Buckbee-Mears facility was purchased by International Electron Devices (IED) on October 26, 2004. IED operated the facility until May, 2005, when they closed due to a lack of funding. A large number of the bulk chemicals used in production and the chemical wastes from past operations were abandoned on Site. These materials included: strong acids and caustics in large tanks, drums, process piping and numerous small containers throughout the facility. Approximately seven cylinders of chlorine gas were also abandoned on Site.

During the summer of 2006, the Cortland Police Department responded to a report of vandalism and became concerned when they discovered the large amount of chemicals which had been abandoned at the Site. The Cortland Police subsequently notified the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) of their findings. On July 27, 2006, representatives from the NYSDEC, the Cortland Police and Fire Departments and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted a Site visit. The visit confirmed the presence of numerous hazardous substances in drums, tanks and cylinders throughout the facility. The potential for a chemical release was deemed serious because the facility was idle with no security and all utilities had been terminated. On August 1, 2006, the NYSDEC formally requested the EPA to conduct a removal action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) at this Site.

Negotiations with the PRP to perform the required clean up actions resulted in EPA issuing an Administrative Order on September 29, 2006. The PRP initially complied with the Order, but ceased correspondence with EPA in early November, 2006. Following several acts of vandalism at the facility, EPA initiated a Removal Action on January 10, 2007.

**Current Activities**

During the reporting period, the ERRS crew completed the draining/cutting/removing of chemical feed lines from Building 5. A total of 220,680 feet (41.8 mi.) of piping has been addressed during the removal action. The AST conducted a walk thru of building 5 to ensure all chemical piping was addressed.

Segregation and sizing C&D debris continued in preparation for load-outs. Cleanup of work areas continued and areas of heavy surface contamination are being pressure washed. One 40-cubic yard roll-off of C & D debris was shipped off-site for landfilling.

The AST continued to monitor work zone safety and provide air monitoring.

### **Planned Removal Actions**

Building conditions continue to deteriorate due to extensive roof leaks, burst water and chemical feed pipes and significant mold growth. Leaking acid feed pipes accelerate the deterioration process. These worsening conditions significantly have required the EPA to increase the scope of their removal action. In addition, the information offered by a former maintenance person at the facility proved inaccurate; that resulted in far more contamination remaining in the process piping than originally thought.

### **Next Steps**

Site security will continue security during all non-working hours. ERRS will continue draining/cutting/removal of chemical process piping and decontamination of the etching line area in building 5. The AST will continue to provide air monitoring and oversight of work zone health and safety and compliance to the HASP.

A ceiling increase action memorandum was approved on February 24, 2009. The additional funding will be used to fund T&D of stockpiled construction and demolition debris and to encapsulate and fence chromium contaminated concrete slabs.

### **Key Issues**

Since the condition of the buildings has worsened, EPA has increased its scope of work to include removal and disposal of process piping, cleaning and dismantling of tanks, decontamination of building interiors, salvaging equipment, scrapping of metal components and, demolition of buildings 1 & 2

### **Disposition of Wastes**

<b>Waste Stream</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Manifest #</b>	<b>Disposal Facility</b>
C&D Debris	40 cu. ydds	022709-001	Seneca Meadows, Inc. 1786 Salcmand Road Waterloo, NY 13165

[www.epaosc.org/BuckbeeMears](http://www.epaosc.org/BuckbeeMears)