

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region II
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Monday, December 10, 2007

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

POLREP No.:	11	Site #:	YH
Reporting Period:	11/05/2007 thru 12/09/2007	D.O. #:	EP-W-04-054-044
Start Date:	1/10/2007	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:		Response Type:	Time-Critical
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:	NYN000205908	Contract #	EP-W-06-072
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

The facility is located at 30 Kellogg Road, City of Cortland, Cortland County, New York, 13045. The property is approximately 50 acres in size and contains 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. The size of the facility

buildings are estimated at 367,000 ft².

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 7 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

Site security was in place during all non-working hours this period and no incidents were reported. One hallway where mold is multiplying was secured and entry prohibited. Two areas, in Building #5, that have been damaged by water leaking from the roof continue to be off-limits.

During the week of November 5, 2007, the ERRS contractor continued to address bulk chemical storage tanks in building 5. After the contents are removed, the tanks are pressure washed and dismantled. Concurrently, ferric chloride pipes in buildings 1 and 2 were purged and flushed. In addition,

process chemical piping was removed in building 1.

During the week of November 12, 2007, WRS personnel continued cutting and dismantling a sodium hydroxide and a potassium hydroxide tank in Building 5. In addition, chemical process lines in Buildings 1 & 4 continue to be purged/flushed and then cut.

During the week of November 19, 2007, WRS personnel started removing residual material from a hydrochloric acid tank and completed the cutting and dismantling of two hydroxide tanks in Building 5. In addition, chemical process lines in Buildings 1 & 4 continue to be purged/flushed and then cut.

After observing the Thanksgiving Holiday, operations resumed on Tuesday, November 27th. WRS personnel continued purging and cutting chemical process piping. Residual materials contained inside the piping is being placed into drums. Cutting of emptied bulk storage tanks also continued.

During the week of December 3, 2007, the ERRS contractor continued purging and cutting chemical process piping. Residual materials contained inside the piping is being placed into drums. Cutting of emptied bulk storage tanks also continued. Three roll-offs, 75 cubic yards, of debris were shipped off-site for disposal.

The AST continues to monitor work zone safety and provide air monitoring. The RST contractor continues to provide oversight and administrative support.

Planned Removal Actions

The winter of 2006-2007 was the first winter season without maintenance oversight and as a result, building conditions have deteriorated due to extensive roof leaks, burst water and chemical feed pipes and significant mold growth. Leaking acid feed pipes will only accelerate the deterioration process. These worsening conditions significantly change the level of clean-up EPA must complete. 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

EPA will continue Site security during all non-working hours. ERRS will pursue disposal and recycling options for the waste material remaining on-Site. The AST will continue to provide air monitoring and oversight of work zone health and safety and compliance to the HASP. The RST contractor will continue to perform general oversight of field activities, assist the AST in air monitoring, provide written and photo-documentation of field activities, maintain the OSC website, and prepare periodic pollution reports.

Key Issues

Since the condition of the buildings has worsened, EPA will increase 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, may include demolition of some buildings.

Disposition of Wastes

Waste Stream	Quantity	Manifest #	Disposal Facility
Non-Haz C&D	185 CY	248026 - 248029, 248056	Waste Management High Acres Landfill 425 Perinton Pkwy Fairport, NY 14450
Non-Haz solids (ferric chloride)	50 CY	248053/248057	Waste Management High Acres Landfill 425 Perinton Pkwy Fairport, NY 14450