

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Schatz Plant Site - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region II

**Subject:**           **POLREP #1**  
                  **Initial**  
                  **Schatz Plant Site**  
  
                  **Poughkeepsie, NY**  
                  **Latitude: 41.7003713 Longitude: -73.9209701**

**To:**                 Daniel Lanners, NYSDEC  
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                       Dennis Farrar, NYSDEC  
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                       Andrew Praschak, US EPA, Region II  
                       Jim Doyle, USEPA, Region II

**From:**           Dilshad Perera, On-Scene Coordinator

**Date:**            8/17/2010

**Reporting Period:** October 26th, 2009 to June 25th 2010

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Background**

<b>Site Number:</b>	A208	<b>Contract Number:</b>	EP-W-04-055
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	0085	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	9/25/2009
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Time-Critical
<b>Response Lead:</b>	EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	10/26/2009	<b>Start Date:</b>	10/6/2009
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	NYD982531246	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The reporting period covers October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009 through June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010: cleanup work performed by AECOM, the outgoing Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor.

#### **Background:**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) formally requested that the USEPA consider the Schatz Plant Site ("Site") for Removal Action eligibility under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act in a letter dated July 22nd, 2008. The initial referral letter, the Schatz Plant Site was defined as encompassing 4 parcels (the original 4 included in its Class 2 Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites); however, the contamination in the southern most parcel had been previously addressed and is now occupied by a manufacturing plant; hence not part of the Removal Action requested by the DEC. A modified referral letter was issued on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 requesting a Removal Action on the three remaining parcels.

The areas of concern cited in the DEC's referral letter were:

- Drums of hazardous substances such as sodium hydroxide, ammonia, hydrochloric acid and hydrogen peroxide abandoned inside various parts of the complex
- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) contaminated wooden floor boards and concrete floors.
- Small containers of hazardous substances.

The Schatz Federal Bearing Co., Inc. began its operations at the site in or about 1915 manufacturing ball bearings. However, the earliest existing building dates back to 1910; it appears that companies using variations of the Schatz name, such as Schatz Manufacturing Company, operated out of this location prior to 1915. From the early 1900s the Site manufactured various steel components requiring heat treating. Between 1910 and 1942, the current configuration of buildings was erected; the primary reason for the rapid expansion was the war effort. Metal working at the site continued until 1980 at which time the Schatz filed for bankruptcy. This was followed by a liquidation in 1981. In 1988, one of the parcels was purchased by Lot Six Realty and Hudson Valley Management Associates, Inc purchased the two remaining parcels that comprise EPA's Schatz Plant Site. During this period, the complex housed several textile manufacturing and dyeing companies; however, by the early 1990, they too failed.

The property owners then turned the facility into rental spaces. Except for a few tenants, the vast majority of tenants were occupying the area were small scale commercial entities and hobbyists requiring space. These tenants were occupying rental space without Certificates of Occupancy, often times their individual spaces were partitioned off by chain link fences, tarps or wall constructed. Due to tenants not obtaining proper Certificates of Occupancy and the buildings itself deemed uninhabitable, the Town of Poughkeepsie, issued Cease and Desist Orders. It appears as though each time a tenant was evicted, they left behind their chemicals.

The site encompasses approximately, 20 acres of which approximately 15 acres developed, mostly buildings.

The building is in a severe state of disrepair; many of the headers show damage; several water pipes burst during EPA's removal action. On March 26<sup>th</sup> 2010 an electric circuit panel in the vicinity of the drum staging area short circuited. The OSC and the Response Manager were 5ft from the panel when it arched. The fire department and Deputy Town Building Inspector responded to the scene. The fire Chief and Deputy Building Inspector determined that there was a undue risk to the EPA crew associated with power being supplied by the deteriorating electrical system and requested the local utility company disconnect the power at the pole. The cutting of the power did not impact EPA's activities since at the inception of the Removal Action, EPA determined that the electrical system was questionable and deemed it necessary to obtain electrical power through two 25KW generators.

#### **ACTIONS TAKEN:**

On September 25, 2009 an Action Memo was approved authorizing a Project Ceiling of \$816,000.

Subsequently on June 15, 2010 an Action Memo authorizing a ceiling increase with a 12-month exemption was approved. The current Project Ceiling is \$1,812,000.

There was an inordinate amount of clutter and debris strewn throughout most of the complex. The crew systematically sifted through the debris strewn on the floor as well as stockpiled in large plastic bins. Amongst items comingled with the debris were solvent based thinners and paints, ripped pipe insulation with asbestos containing material (ACM) and an ampoule of mercury (presumably from a gauge). Most of these containers were 5 gallons or less.

There were several areas used as drum staging areas throughout the complex. Drums in many of these staging areas had debris piled on top of them, in some cases obscuring them from view.

Based on the comingling of containers of hazardous material and debris, it was decided to sift through the debris manually as opposed to using heavy machinery to push aside the debris and clutter, thereby minimizing the risk of causing a release. At this point in time, all drums, 20 gallons or larger have been identified, overpacked and restaged based on hazard class. Approximately 6,000 cubic yards of debris were sifted through

An area occupied by a tenant, still contained vats with residual plating salts and drums left behind from the Schatz period. These vats were cleaned and the containers overpacked and restaged. A large tank, of heat treating oil remains in this area.

In a butler building, two tanks having an approximate capacity of 10,500 gallons were identified encased in a cinderblock constructed wall extending to the roof, with the only access near the roofline. For health and safety considerations, the cinder block walls were demolished.

The heat treating area identified in the DEC referral letter was accessed. Firebricks, presumably

discarded during the liquidation, were found in many of the heat treating pits located inside the building. Based on the fact that historically, firebricks were manufactured with asbestos for its insulation properties, grab samples of broken and crushed firebricks were collected. Some of the bricks contained chrysotile and amosit forms of asbestos in percentile levels. There were also small containers and drums staged inside the heat treating building. No further action was taken in this building since the AECOM contract with the EPA was about to expire.

#### **FUTURE PLANS:**

- Creating a containment system around the heat treating building to ensure the safe removal of the friable asbestos as a result of the crushed and broken ACM containing firebricks and provide offsite disposal
- Loose pack small containers and provide offsite disposal
- Provide of site disposal of collected containers.
- Provide disposal for tank contents.
- Subsurface soil sampling with the assistance of EPA's Environmental Response Team to determine if subsurface contamination exists that pose an undue risk to public health and or the environment.

#### **COSTS:**

Project Ceiling:	\$816,000
*Cost to Date:	\$805,000
% of Ceiling Remaining:	1.3

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

### **2.2 Planning Section**

### **2.3 Logistics Section**

### **2.4 Finance Section**

### **2.5 Safety Officer**

### **2.6 Liaison Officer**

### **2.7 Information Officer**

## **3. Participating Entities**

### **3.1 Unified Command**

### **3.2 Cooperating and Assisting Agencies**

**4. Personnel On Site**

**5. Definition of Terms**

**6. Additional sources of information**

**6.1 Internet location of additional information/reports**

**6.2 Reporting Schedule**

**7. Situational Reference Materials**