Peter O.
F.le 4940
Johnny cake

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II

POLLUTION REPORT

I. HEADING

Date: September 27, 2005

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Subject: Johnny Cake Road Site (Removal Action)
Danube, Herkimer County, New York

POLREP NO.: 1

II. BACKGROUND

Site No:	6M
Delivery Order Number:	0045
Response Authority:	CERCLA
State Notification:	State notified
CERCLIS Number:	NJD986927697
NPL Statue:	Non-NPL
Action Memo Status:	Not Applicable
Start Date:	June 25th, 2005
Demobilization Date:	July 27th, 2005
Completion Date:	Pending

III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

CERCLA incident category: Illegal Cocaine Refining Laboratory

B. Site Description

1. Site Location

The Site consists of farmland along both sides of Johnny Cake Road in Little Falls, New York. In 1987, the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) seized the property due to an illegal cocaine refining laboratory which was operating in the house and garage building. As a result of the refining operation, unknown amounts of solvents were spilled and/or dumped onto the unpaved garage floor and driveway surface or into the on-site septic system. Since the seizure of the property, the USMS has razed all structures on the Site.

2. Description of Threat

Please see the prior POLREPS.

C. Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Results

Please see the prior POLREPS for a description of Site evaluation activities.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Situation

1. Current Situation

In April 2005, EPA prepared a Soil Removal Action Workplan (SRAW) to address the remediation of the contaminated soils documented in the vicinity of the former septic tank area, the garage building and the former livestock stable. The SRAW was reviewed and accepted by the NYSDEC and NYSDOH prior to the start of work.

On June 25th, 2005, EPA and its contractors mobilized to the Site and began the implementation of the SRAW. During the implementation of the SRAW, approximately 100-cubic yards of potentially affected soil was removed and staged pending sampling results. Post-excavation soil samples collected from both the former septic tank area and the former garage area confirmed the effectiveness of the excavation activities. No soil removal occurred in association with the former livestock stable because field screening instrumentation did not identifythe presence of any volatile organic vapors in the soils to a depth of 16.0-feet below grade.

At this time, EPA is monitoring the groundwater quality at select locations to determine the groundwater quality following the implementation of the SRAW. This monitoring will continue for approximately one year.

Removal Actions to Date

On April 19 and 20, 1989, C. T. Male Associates, P. C. performed an initial phase of a subsurface contamination investigation. Soil samples from the garage floor indicated the presence of trace concentrations of methylene chloride, trichloroethene (TCE), tetrachloroethene (PCE). However, during the same investigation soil samples collected just below the water table identified trichloroethene (TCE), tetrachloroethene (PCE), toluene, acetone, and methylene chloride at slightly higher concentrations.

On August 8, 1989, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region II Removal Action Branch (RAB) received a request from the U.S. Marshal's and U.S. Attorney's Offices to conduct a removal assessment at the Johnny Cake Road Site. As a result of this request, on August 27, 1990, an Action Memorandum was approved to perform a removal action, which included, the transfer of contents of the septic tank and a 55-gallon drum into secure on-site containers. Subsequently, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the U.S. Marshal's Office and the EPA began the process of formally entering into an Interagency Agreement (I.G.) for the reimbursement of funds for actions performed by the EPA and to conduct further rededication of the site.

In April and May 1990, the U.S. Marshal's Office conducted additional site investigations in other portions of the property. The results indicated that toluene, TCE, and PCE were present in both the stream and in the pond area along the eastern property boundary. These contaminants (in the groundwater and surface water) exceeded the New York State Ambient Water Quality Standards and NYSDOH ground-water/drinking water standards and/or guidance value.

In September and November of 1990, the U.S. EPA Environmental Response Team (ERT) and its Response Engineering and Analytical Contractor (REAC) contractor, at the request of the U.S. EPA Region II RAB, conducted an extent of contamination investigation by soil gas methods and analyses of groundwater. A seismic refraction survey was also conducted to identify potential pathways for both lateral and vertical migration of contaminants into the bedrock aquifer.

On March 8, 1991, verbal authorization was granted for a removal action restart to complete off-site disposal of the stabilized material transferred from the septic tank and 55-gallon on-site drum.

In May of 1991, ERT/REAC returned to the site to ascertain the specific area of soil contamination for removal purposes, and to determine whether contamination is migrating beyond those areas identified in previous investigations.

The analytical results of this investigation confirmed previous sampling results as to the location of the spill areas at the site, the septic tank, in front of the two-bay garage, the driveway and the west side of the livestock stable/stall barn.

In April of 1993, ERT/REAC returned to the site to perform an ecological assessment. The objectives of the study were to evaluate stream quality based on benthic community structure. Information generated from this assessment indicated that the creek was a possible receptor for the groundwater contamination and recommended corrective actions to avoid or reduce the threats to the creek and the associated ecological resources.

In October 25 -26, 1993, EPA and its Technical Assistance Team (TAT) returned to the Site to resample monitoring and residential wells in order to update the location of the groundwater plume and to identify source areas for remediation. During this investigation, 42 soil borings (at depths of 3 and 6 feet), 20 aqueous samples from 7 monitoring wells, 4 residential wells, the on-site swimming pool, 2 down gradient surface water stream samples, and 4 quality assurance samples (trip, field and cleaning blanks) were analyzed for volatile organic compounds under the Quick Turnaround Method (QTM) program.

The analytical results of this investigation confirmed previous sampling results as to the location of the spill areas at the site, the septic tank, in front of the two-bay garage, the driveway and the west side of the livestock stable/stall barn.

In May and June 1995, as a precautionary measure, EPA returned to the Site to monitor the installation of five (5) deep-aquifer drinking water wells for nearby residents. At each residence, a shallow-tray air stripping unit was installed and groundwater monitored. In each case, both the untreated and treated water was found to be free of site-related contaminants.

In April 2000, EPA returned to the Site to resample eight monitoring wells and four residential wells to determine whether plume migration had expanded. Based upon the data obtained from this sampling event, the plume had remained relatively unchanged. No evidence of impact on the residential wells was identified.

During the last 3-months of 2003, EPA and its contractors returned the Site to conduct additional soil and groundwater investigations. The investigation involved the installation of five additional monitoring wells and 27 soil borings. The objective of this work was to determine the nature and extent of subsurface soil and groundwater contamination as well as determine plume migration. The results of this investigation indicated that the groundwater plume had not changed, however, the extent of soil contamination was deeper than previously identified.

In 1995, EPA installed POET systems at six residences (and also previously installed potable water wells at 4 of these residences) along Johnny Cake Road.

2. Enforcement

There was no enforcement activity for the period covered by this POLREP.

B. Planned Removal Activities

At this time, no additional action are planned. Monitoring well sampling will be conducted every three months for the next year.

C. Next Steps

Groundwater monitoring.

D. Key Issues

Following the 12-month monitoring period, EPA and NYSDEC will determine whether additional action is warranted.

V. COST INFORMATION (to 8/012/05)[1]

	COSTS TO DATE[2]
ERRS	$66,500
RST	$5,000
EPA (OSC)	$4,500

Notes

1. The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2. Estimated costs for the most recent removal activities addressed by this POLREP.

VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTES

No wastes were generated as a result of the implementation of the SRAW. The excavated soils were found to be free of site-related contaminants and used as cover.