FY90-1462

SITE ASSESSMENT REPORT

For

TXD174127407

Hi-Tech Plating Facility A.K.A.
Abandoned Electroplating Facility
Balch Springs, Dallas County, Texas

Prepared for

EPA - REGION VI
EMERGENCY RESPONSE BRANCH

J. Chris Petersen
Deputy Project Officer

By

Ecology and Environment, Inc.
Technical Assistance Team

30 June 1990

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1509 MAIN STREET, SUITE 814, DALLAS, TEXAS 75201, TEL. 214-742-6601
International Specialists in the Environment

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International Specialists in the Environment

FY90-1462

Date: 30 June 1990

To: James Staves, OSC
EPA Region VI, Emergency Response Branch

Thru: J. Chris Petersen, DPO
EPA Region VI, Emergency Response Branch

Thru: Kishor Fruitwala, TATL
Region VI, Technical Assistance Team

From: Henry Liserio
Region VI, Technical Assistance Team

Subj: Site Assessment Report:
Hi-Tech Plating Facility
A.K.A. Abandoned Electroplating Facility
Balch Springs, Dallas County, Texas
TDD# T06-9002-35
PAN# TTX1100SAA

PURPOSE

On 28 February and 1-2 March 1990, at approximately 1430 hours, Region VI Technical Assistance Team (TAT) members Henry Liserio and Tom Yank conducted a site assessment at the Hi-Tech Plating facility located at 2017 Peachtree Road in Balch Springs, Dallas County, Texas.

The TAT was tasked to evaluate the potential for an immediate removal action, photodocument the area of the reported corrosive spill, measure pH in any pools found in the drainage ditch, conduct air monitoring, and investigate and tentatively identify the contents of the plating vats inside the facility building.

BACKGROUND

The site assessment was conducted in response to an anonymous citizen's complaint to the EPA Emergency Response Branch on 28 February 1990 of acids and other corrosive materials leaking from an abandoned plating facility at 2017 Peachtree Road in Balch Springs, Dallas County, Texas (Attachment A). The property on which the facility is located is owned by Mr. Edwin Brown of Troup, Texas. The property was leased to Mr. Reggie Gist, who operated a metal plating facility under the business name: Hi-Tech Plating. According to Mr. Bob Grant, Fire Chief for Balch

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Springs Fire Department, Mr. Gist terminated the plating operations and abandoned the building in approximately early February of 1990. Mr. Grant stated that a corrosive material had leaked out from one of the large plating vats, stored at the south end the building, into a nearby drainage ditch (Attachment sand berms around the building, and pouring sand on the spilled material. Mr. Grant informed TAT that approximately 54 vats containing highly acidic and basic waste liquids and sludges were located inside the building. The fire department officials observed that some of the vats were leaking and attempted to stop a substantial leak from one of the vats by using a wooden bung. The officials have also encountered young trespassers who entered the facility through an opening in the south sheet metal wall which was corroded by the leaking material.

On 1 March 1990, Mr. Paul Cooper of the Texas Water Commission(TWC) informed TAT that the facility was being investigated by officials of the TWC and the RCRA branch of the EPA for illegal discharge of cyanide and metal wastes into the sewer lines. The sewer lines from the facility were removed by the City of Balch Springs Water Department after numerous attempts to control the discharges of cyanide and metal wastes via the sewer line into the municipal water treatment plant had failed.

According to Fire Chief, Mr. Grant, the site owner(Mr. Brown) was in the process of receiving bids from several clean-up contractors to remediate and stabilize the threats posed by the site wastes.

OBSERVATIONS

The site is readily accessible from nearby Peachtree Road and is surrounded by occupied buildings and businesses located within 25 feet of the facilty . Upon arrival at the site on 28 February 1990 at 1430 hours , TAT observed sanded material near the south wall of the site and along a pathway through the site parking lot to a drainage ditch on the southeast corner of the site (Photos # 2 & 3). Dead vegetation was observed in the drainage area where the flow entered the drainage ditch. TAT also observed a green discoloration near the sanded material, and part of the concrete foundation near the sanded portion of the building was corroded (Photos # 5 & 6). The bottom of the north wall also had openings which appeared to be caused by the leaking material (Photo # 8).

Approximately 15 fifty-five gallon drums labeled as containing hydrochloric acid and aluminum etch were located outside the north wall of the building (Photos # 9 & 10) . A majority of the drums seemed to contain large amounts of products or wastes and were unopened.

On 1 March 1990, TAT assessed each of the 54 vats inside the

building by measuring the physical dimensions , the approximate volume of wastes , and the pH of the wastes in each vat (Attachment C). A majority of the vat wastes had a pH, measured with indicator strips, of 0 to 2 and 12 to 14. Several vats containing highly acidic and basic wastes were located adjacent to each other, and some were almost full with minimal freeboard (less than 4 inches). All of the vats were open surface tanks with no coverings. A large percentage of the vats were in poor condition and visibly corroded, with several of the vats leaking. The approximate volume of the acidic wastes (pH 0 to 2) was 28,000 gallons, and the basic materials (pH 12-14) was 20,000 gallons.

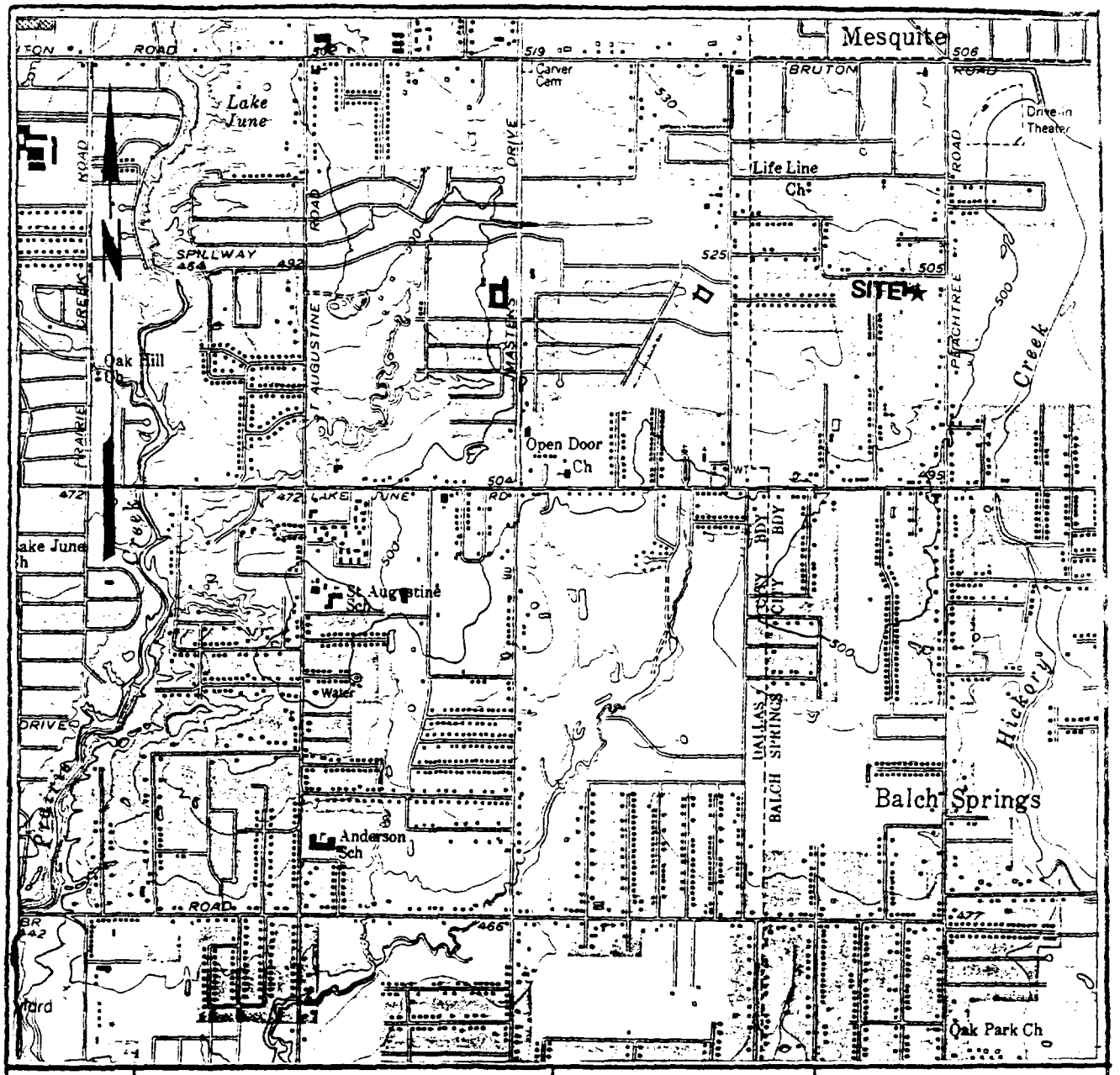
Several liquid samples collected by the TAT from three vats that had a pH above 13 were screened for cyanide by using a silver nitrate reagent. Of the three vats, two samples revealed a positive indication for cyanide. One of the vats (confirmed as containing cyanide) was located adjacent to a vat containing highly acidic wastes.

In addition, the TAT conducted air monitoring inside the building with the following instruments: HNU photoionization unit, explosimeter, MIRAN infrared analyzer and drager tubes for HCN, acid vapors, HCl, and cyanide compounds. The MIRAN infrared analyzer consistently detected HCN vapors ranging from 5 to 8 ppm near the vats located on the northern end of the build- ing (near the vats confirmed as containing cyanide). The acid drager tubes detected approximately 3 to 5 ppm of acid vapors ambient air of the building, and the cyanide drager tubes detected 3 to 6 ppm of cyanides above the headspace of several of the vats (Attachment D).

Upon completion of the site assessment, a meeting was arranged with management officials of the Emergency Response Branch and Criminal Investigation Division of the EPA to discuss the potential for an immediate removal action. The site owner was contacted by the On-Scene Coordinator to discuss the immediate threats posed by the site and the possible need for immediate stabilization actions .

ATTACHMENTS:

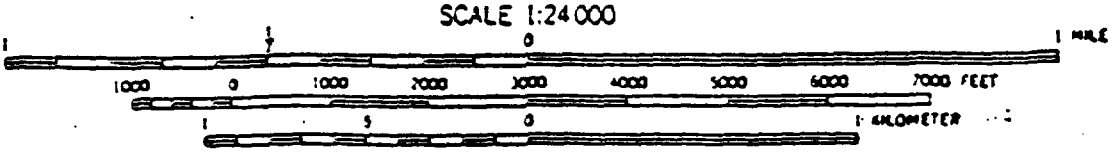
A. Site Location Map
B. Site Sketch
C. Vat Inventory for Hi-Tech Plating (2 pages)
D. Air Monitoring Results for Hi-Tech Plating Facility (1 page)
E. Mounted Photographs (5 pages)
F. Unused Photographs and Negatives
G. POLREPs (3 pages)
H. Records of Communication (6 pages)
I. Copies of Logbook Pages (1-29)
J. Copy of TDD # T06-9002-35 and Amendments A,B

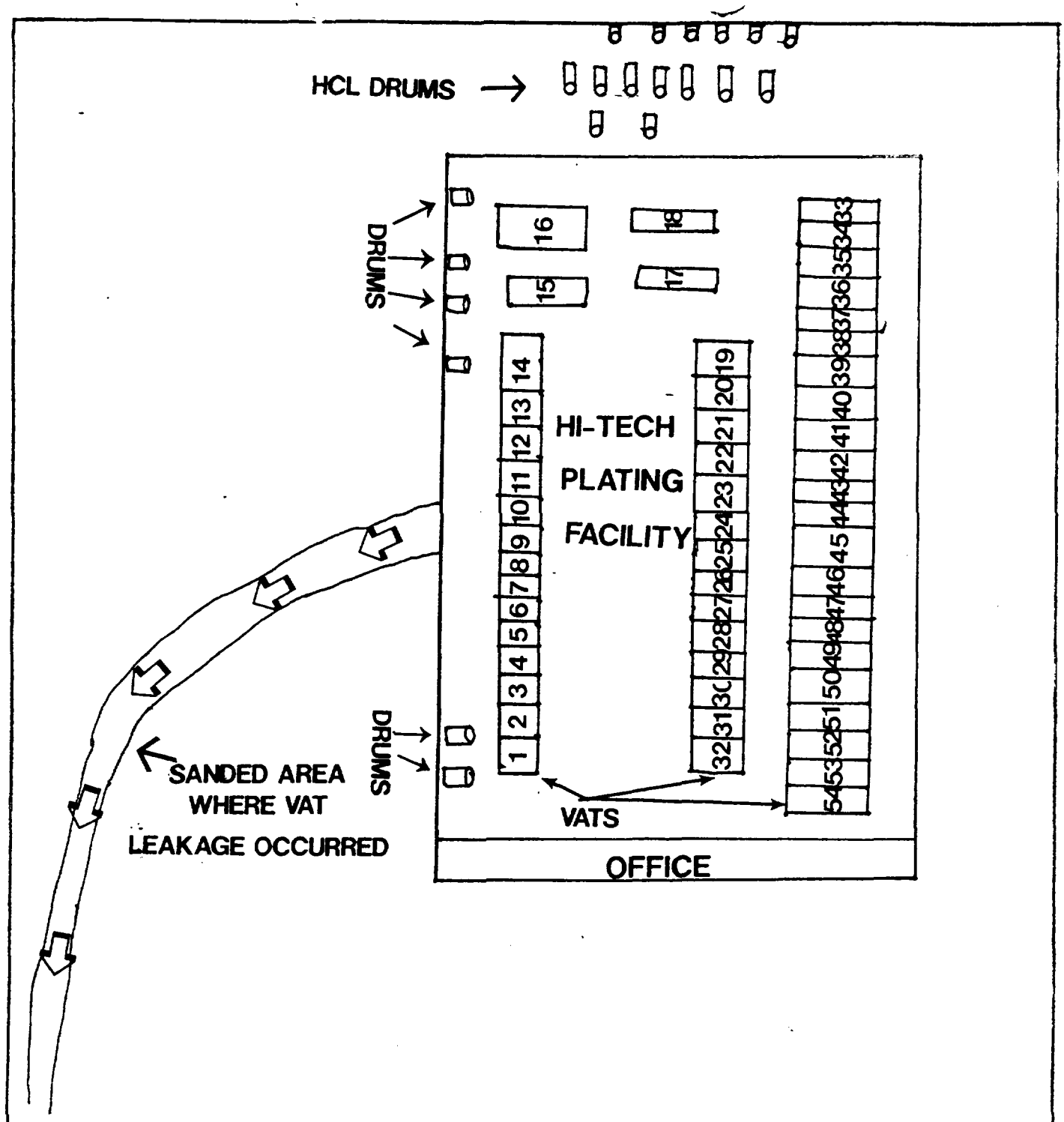


	Ecology and Environment, Inc. Technical Assistance Team RegionVI	Case FY90-1462	TDD T06-9002-35
		PAN TT1100SAA	Date 6-30-90
		Originator Henry Liserio	

LOCATION MAP
ABANDONED ELECTROPLATING FACILITY
BALCH SPRINGS, DALLAS COUNTY, TX

SCALE 1:24 000





PEACHTREE STREET

Ecology and Environment, Inc. Technical Assistance Team Region VI	Case: FY90-1462	TDD: T06-9002-35
	Pan: TTX1100SAA	Date: 6-30-90
	Originator: HENRY LISERIO	

SITE SKETCH
ABANDONED PLATING FACILITY
BALCH SPRINGS, DALLAS COUNTY, TX

VAT INVENTORY FOR HI-TECH PLATING

VAT #	HEIGHT (FT.)	WIDTH (FT.)	LENGTH (FT.)	DEPTH* (FT.)	pH	VOLUME (GALS.)	DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS
1	4.5	3	10	3	13	673.2	clear liquid
2	4.5	3	10	4.5	1	1009.8	soapy greenish color liquid
3	4.5	3	10	4.5	7	1009.8	soapy greenish color liquid
4	4.5	3	10	0	-	0.0	empty
5	4.5	3	10	0	-	0.0	empty
6	4.5	3	10	4.5	12	1009.8	dark foamy liquid
7	4.5	3	10	3	2	673.2	dark foamy liquid
8	4.5	3	10	1	0	224.4	dark foamy liquid
9	4.5	3	10	4.5	0	1009.8	dark foamy liquid
10	4.5	3	10	4.5	11	1009.8	dark foamy liquid
11	4.5	3	10	4.5	13	1009.8	dark foamy liquid
12	4.5	3	10	4.5	10	1009.8	dark foamy liquid
13	4.5	3	10	4.5	4	1009.8	dark foamy liquid
14	4.5	3	10	1	10	224.4	dark foamy liquid
15	3	1.5	6	3	13	202.0	rinse water
16	4	3	10	4	5	897.6	dark liquid
17	4	4	8	0.1666	6	39.9	dark liquid
18	5	3	9.5	0.25	10	53.3	dark liquid
19	6	3	12	5.5	7	1481.0	dark liquid
20	6	3	12	5.5	10	1481.0	dark liquid
21	6	3	12	5.5	0	1481.0	dark liquid
22	6	3	12	3	0	807.8	blue foam liquid
23	6	3	12	5.8	1	1561.8	dark liquid
24	6	3	12	3	12	807.8	dark liquid
25	6	3	12	5.8	13	1561.8	dark liquid
26	6	8	12	0.5	14	359.0	da

VAT INVENTORY FOR HI-TECH PLATING

VAT #	HEIGHT (FT.)	WIDTH (FT.)	LENGTH (FT.)	DEPTH* (FT.)	pH	VOLUME (GALS.)	DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS
27	6	8	12	0.5	14	359.0	dark liquid
28	6	3	12	0	-	0.0	dark liquid
29	6	3	12	0	-	0.0	dark liquid
30	6	3	12	6	7	1615.7	dark liquid
31	6	4	12	6	14	2154.2	dark liquid
32	6	3	12	3	13	807.8	dark liquid
33	5	3.5	10	2	7	523.6	labeled as hood 1
34	5	4	10	0.1	4	29.9	empty
35	5	4	10	4.8	2	1436.2	labeled as H20 ambient
36	5	3.5	10	4.8	5	1256.6	Al dip yellow ambient
37	6	4	10	0.1	6	29.9	H20 ambient label
38	5	3	10	4.8	0	1077.1	DEO x sc592
39	5	3	10	2	9	448.8	h20
40	5	5	10	4	6	1496.0	etchant labeled
41	5	5	10	3	12	1122.0	SOAK Sk1003 140180
42	6	5	10	5.8	0	2169.2	lined with plastic
43	6	5	10	5.8	0	2169.2	lined with plastic
44	6	5	10	2	0	748.0	dark liquid
45	6	4	10	5.8	0	1735.4	green liquid
46	6	4	10	5.8	1	1735.4	dark liquid
47	6	4	10	5.8	13	1735.4	dark liquid
48	6	5	10	5.8	13	2169.2	white crystals on side/brn liq
49	6	10	10	0.5	14	374.0	dark soapy green liquid
50	6	5	9	5.8	0	1952.3	dark soapy green liquid
51	6	5	9	5.8	0	1952.3	dark green liquid
52	6	4	9	5.8	0	1561.8	dark liquid
53	6	5	9	5.8	14	1952.3	dark liquid
54	6	4	9	5.8	13	1561.8	dark liquid

AIR MONITORING RESULTS
HI-TECH PLATING FACILITY

INSTRUMENT	SPECIES	LOCATION	READING
HNU Photoionization	VO	Inside whse.	0.1 ppm
Explosimeter	02, LEL	Inside whse.	21%, 0.0
Draeger tubes	acid vapors	Inside whse.	2-5 ppm
Draeger tubes	CN	Near north vats	2.4 mg/M3
MIRAN Infared Analyz	CN	Near north vats	2-5 ppm
MIRAN Infared Analyz	CN	Above vat #48	5-8 ppm
Draeger tubes	CN	Above vat #48	2-4 ppm
MIRAN Infared Analyz	CN	Near middle vats	0 ppm

Page 1 of 5

TDD#: T06-9002-35

Photographer / Witness

Liserio/ Yank

Date / Time / Direction

2-28-90/1545/ W

Comments: Front entrance to building with " No Tresspassing" signs erected by Fire Dept.

1

Photographer / Witness

Liserio/ Yank

Date / Time / Direction

2-28-90/ 1555/ E

Comments: Sanded portion of parking lot where leak occurred.

2

TDD#: T06-9002-35

Photographer / Witness
Liserio/ Yank

Date / Time / Direction
2-28-90/1605/NW

Comments: Sanded area near south wall where leak occurred.

3

Photographer / Witness
Liserio/ Yank

Date / Time / Direction
2-28-90/1610/W

Comments: South wall corroded by leaking vats.

4

TDD#: T06-9002-35

Photographer / Witness
Liserio/ Yank

Date / Time / Direction
2-28-90/ 1605/ W

Comments: Green discoloration in area where leak occurred.

5

Photographer / Witness
Liserio/ Yank

Date / Time / Direction
2-28-90 / 1610/ NE

Comments: Corrosion in concrete caused by leaking material.

6

TDD#: T06-9002-35

Photographer / Witness
Liserio/ Yank

Date / Time / Direction
2-28-90/ 1622/ E

Comments: Drainage area along north side of building, pH of standing liquid was neutral (6-7).

7

Photographer / Witness
Liserio/ Yank

Date / Time / Direction
2-28-90/ 1635/ SW

Comments: Openings in north building wall caused by corrosive materials.

8

Page 5 of 5

TDD#: T06-9002-35

Photographer / Witness

Liserio/ Yank

Date / Time / Direction

2-28-90/ 1638/ SE

Comments: Drums of HCl located on west end of site.

9

Photographer / Witness

Liserio/ Yank

Date / Time / Direction

2-28-90/ 1639/ N

Comments: Labeling on containers located outside of building.

10

ecology and environment, inc.
1509 MAIN STREET, DALLAS, TEXAS 75201

Unused Photographs & Negatives
Abandoned Plating Facility
Balch Springs, Dallas County, TX
TDD# T06-9002-35
PAN # TTX1100SAA

POLREP #1

I. Hi-Tech Plating Facility
2017 Peachtree
Balch Springs, TX

Date: 3/4/90
From: Tom Yank/Henry Liserio
To: Pat Hammack, Region VI-ERB
Subj: Hi-Tech Plating Facility
Polrep: POLREP #1

II. BACKGROUND

Response Authority: CERCLA- Site Assessment
NPL Status: Not applicable

III. INCIDENT INFORMATION

Situation

On February 28, 1990, at approximately 14:30 hours, TAT conducted a site assessment at the Hi-Tech Plating Facility located at 2017 Peachtree in Balch Springs, Texas. The property is owned by Mr. Edwin Brown of Troup, Texas. The facility was leased to Mr. Rodney Gist, who operated a metal plating facility. The facility ceased operation in early February of this year.

The site assessment was conducted in response to a citizen's report of acids or other materials leaking from the site into the nearby drainage areas. Upon arrival at the scene, TAT observed sanded material near the south wall of the site and along a pathway leading to a drainage ditch on the southeast corner of the site. Dead vegetation was observed in the drainage area. TAT also observed a green discoloration near the sanded material and that portion of the concrete foundation was corroded by the sanded south wall. Twelve drums labeled as containing hydrochloric acid(10 of the drums were full) were located outside of the building near the west wall. The bottom portion of the north wall was corroded which suggested that leaks had occurred previously at the site. Signs were posted near the site door by the Balch Springs Fire Department declaring the site as hazardous. TAT contacted Bob Grant, Balch Springs Fire Marshal, for information on the site. The site is readily accessible from the nearby roadway, Peachtree street, and is surrounded by occupied residences and businesses located less than 200 feet from the site building.

According to Mr. Grant, a leak of an acidic material had

occurred about a week ago. The material had leaked from a vat used in the plating operation, out of the building, across the parking lot, and into the drainage ditch. Approximately 54 vats containing various types of highly acidic and basic materials were located in the building. Some of the vats were observed by the fire department officials to be leaking. Local officials also have encountered young trespassers who have entered the building through an opening in the sheet metal wall which was corroded by the leak. Mr. grant informed TAT that the site also has been investigated by the Texas Water Commission and EPA RCRA officials for substantial discharges into the drainage system of wastes containing cyanides and heavy metals. According to Mr. Grant, the site owner was in the process of receiving bids for the cleanup actions at the site from several environmental firms. Mr. Grant also informed TAT that the site owner was very responsive and cooperative in assisting city and state officials in trying to remedy the situation, and was unaware of the poor operating procedures of the tenant.

B. Actions Taken

TAT inventoried each of the 54 vats by measuring the following parameters; the physical dimensions of the vats, the approximate volume of liquids in each vat, and the pH of each vat. The pH of the liquids in the vats, measured with pH indicator strips, ranged from 0 to 14. Several vats containing highly acidic materials (pH of 0-2) were located adjacent to vats containing highly basic liquids (pH of 12-14) with no separation between the vats. Several of the vats were almost full with minimal freeboard(less than 4 inches). A large percentage of the vats were in poor shape with visible corrosion. Several of the vats were leaking their contents onto the floor. The total volume of the acidic liquids(pH of 0-4) contained in the vats was 28,000 gallons, and the total volume of the basic materials(pH of 9-14) was 20,000 gallons.

TAT took samples from three of the vats containing basic liquids. The samples were checked for cyanides using silver nitrate reagents. Two of the samples were confirmed as containing at least 50 ppm of cyanides using the reagent test(a positive sample is confirmed by no change in color of the sample when adding the reagent). One of the vats confirmed as containing cyanides was located adjacent to a vat containing highly acidic materials.

TAT conducted air monitoring inside the building with the following instruments: HNU photoionization unit, explosimeter, MIRAN infrared analyzer; and draeger tubes for HCN, cyanides, acids, and HCl. The MIRAN instrument consistently detected HCN vapors ranging from 5 to 8 ppm near the vats located on the northern end of the building(near the vats confirmed as containing cyanides).

The acid draeger tubes detected approximately 3 to 5 ppm of total acids in the ambient air of the building, and 3-6 ppm of cyanides above the headspace of several of the vats.

Upon completion of the site assessment, the site owner was informed by the OSC of the need for immediate stabilization actions at the site. The site owner then contracted EmTech Environmental Services to take the following actions the following morning on March 3, 1990: redike and repair the leaking vats, cover several of the vats with visqueen for vapor suppression and to prevent further leaks, move the drums located outside the building into the building. The site owner also contacted the local police department to provide extra security at the site to prevent locals from entering the building.

Future Plans

TAT and the OSC will continue to monitor the situation via the telephone and by conducting on-site monitoring of the PRP removal activities. The site owner is planning on contracting a firm to take immediate remediation actions at the site within the next few days.

Key Issues

The main immediate threat to the environment and the public health and welfare was the leaking vats and easy access to the drums located outside the building. The large amounts of strongly acidic and basic materials located adjacent to each other, the poor condition of the vats, and the presence of cyanides in several vats and in the ambient air pose an immediate and substantial threat to the nearby residents and businesses.

OSC: Patrick Hammack
TAT: Tom Yank/ Henry Liserio
Status of case: Open

H. Livesay
Originator

RECORDS OF COMMUNICATION

Conversation with:
Name: Steve Brow
Company: Site owner of Hi-Tech
Address:
Troup, TX
Phone: (214) 842-3107
Subject: Site assessment at Hi-Tech facility

Date: 3 / 1 / 90
Time: 1300 AM/PM

☒ Originator Placed Call
☐ Originator Received Call
W.O. NO.

Notes:
Talked with Mr. Steve Brown, relative of Mr. Edwin Brown, property owner of facility. Mr. Brown, not there, but will be in office tomorrow.

☐ File
☐ Tickle File ___/___/___
☐ Follow-Up By:
☐ Copy/Route To:

Follow-Up-Action:

Originator's Initials: HL

H. Liceno
Originator

RECORDS OF COMMUNICATION

Conversation with:

Name: Paul Cooper

Company: TWC

Address: Duncanville, TX

Phone: (214) 298-6171

Date: 3 / 1 / 90

Time: 1520 AM/PM

☐ Originator Placed Call

☒ Originator Received Call

W.O. NO.

Subject: Site assessment at Hi-Tech facility.

Notes: Received call from Mr. Cooper, who conducted site investigation previously. Site operator was Reggie Gist. May be still operating in new location at Forney, TX. Mr. Cooper inform TAT that sewer line from facility was cut-off due to high cyanide and metals entering the municipal treatment plant. Site investigated by EPA RCRA, Everett Spencer (644-6475) RCRA official.

☐ File

☐ Tickle File / /

☐ Follow-Up By:

☐ Copy/Route To:

Follow-Up-Action:

Originator's Initials: HL

H. Liserio
Originator

RECORDS OF COMMUNICATION

Conversation with:
Name Edwin Brown
Company Site owner
Address
Troup, TX
Phone (214) 842-3107
Subject Site assessment at Hi-Tech Plating

Date 3 / 2 / 90
Time 830 AM/PM

☒ Originator Placed Call
☐ Originator Received Call
W.O. NO.

Notes: Talked with Mr. Brown about site assessment. Purpose of visit is to assess the immediate threat and integrity of vats containing waste. Mr. Brown requested to talk directly with OSC or EPA official. Inform Mr. Brown that ~~proper~~ we are a representative and consultant for EPA, and not actually an employee of EPA. Informed Mr. Brown that the purpose of visit was only to assess the problem to evaluate whether further action is required. Mr. Brown informed TAT that he's currently taking bids from contractors on cleaning up the site.

☐ File
☐ Tickle File / /
☐ Follow-Up By:
☐ Copy/Route To:

Follow-Up-Action:

Originator's Initials HL

RECORD of COMMUNICATION – H. Liserio

Originator

☒ Telephone ☐ Direct Location: _____ ☐ Other: _____

Date 4 / 2 / 90

Name ~~Henry Liser~~ Pat Hammack

Time 900 AM/PM

Company EPA

Address

Dallas TX

☒ Originator Placed Call

☐ Originator Received Call

Phone 655-2270

Subject: Hi-Tech Plating

Notes: Ask OSC for TDP extension till 4-30-90 and to amend hours.

File _____

Tickle File _____ / _____ / _____

Follow-Up By: _____

Copy/Route To: _____

Follow-Up Action: _____

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ecology and environment

H. Liseria
Originator

RECORDS OF COMMUNICATION

Conversation with:
Name: Pat Hammack
Company: EPA
Address:
Dallas, TX
Phone: 655-2270
Subject: Site assessment report

Date: 4 / 9 / 90
Time: 1130 AM/PM

☒ Originator Placed Call
☐ Originator Received Call
W.O. NO.

Notes:
Amend TOD to include final report with removal action report which will not conclude till mid-June.

☐ File
☐ Tickle File / /
☐ Follow-Up By:
☐ Copy/Route To:

Follow-Up-Action:

Originator's Initials: NL

H. Liserio
Originator

RECORDS OF COMMUNICATION

Conversation with:
Name Bob Grant
Company Balch Springs Fire Dept
Address
Phone (214) 557-6000

Date 3 / 1 / 90
Time 1230 AM/PM

☐ Originator Placed Call
☐ Originator Received Call
W.O. NO.

Subject Site assessment at Abandoned Electroplating Facility

Notes:
Talked with Mr. Grant about proposed sampling mission at Hi-Tech Plating facility at 2017 Beechtree. Told him that OSC planned on entering building to look at vats and check vat integrity. Also, take pH of vats and photodocument. Gave info on TWC contact, that the facility was illegally dumping wastes into sewer line, sewer was cut off by city water dept. Owner abandoned facility around mid-January. TWC investigated the site previously.

☐ File
☐ Tickle File / /
☐ Follow-Up By:
☐ Copy/Route To:

Follow-Up-Action:

Originator's Initials

E & E Job Number _____

Telephone Code Number _____

Site Name Hi-Tech Plating
2017 Peachtree

State/City Balch Springs, TX

TDD 06-9002-15

PAN TX1100SAA

SSID _____

Start/Finish Date Feb. 28, 1990 / 3-3-90

Book 1 of 1

E & E Emergency Response Center: (716) 684-8940

06-9002-35 2-28-90 Hi-Tech Plating

1330 - Received call from Jim Staves to do drive-by inspection of a plating facility (unnamed). Received anonymous citizen's report that abandoned electroplating facility was leaking unknown substances into drainage ditch and roadways by site (Report received by Jime Staves, OSC EPA-ERB).

1400 - TAT Liserio, Project manager Tom Yank, Site Safety officer assign to conduct site assessment

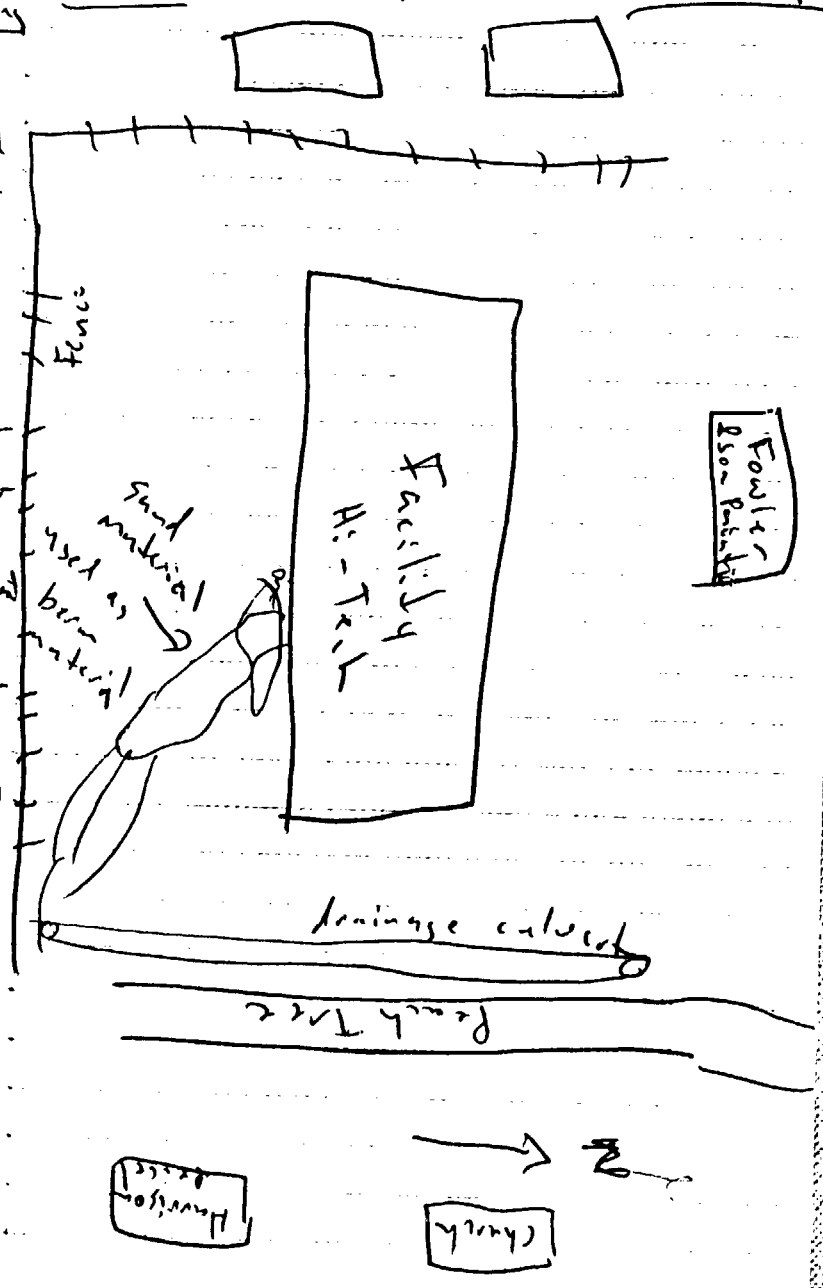
1430 - Safety meeting: do not contact any substances, do only preliminary drive-by inspection. Proposed activities: do a visual inspection, photograph site, check pH of site drainage if observed.

1545 - TAT Liserio and Tom Yank arrive at site. Camera used for photography: Olympus OMG Serial # 101992, Lens serial # Soligard F28, 3794623.

Photo #1, 2W, Front entrance with company name, "unsafe" as declared

Hey Liserio

06-9002-35 Residences Hi-tech Plating



04-9002-35 2-28-90 Hi-Tech Plating

by Fire Marshal, Yank / Liserio

1600 - Photo #3, north drainage area, W, Yank / Liserio

Photo #4 - corroded bottom portion of site bldg on north side, S, Yank / Liserio

1600 - Drums of hydrochloric acid, caustic soda, cynaobrin observed outside of west side of bldg. Photo #5, drums located on east side of site, E, Yank / Liserio (actually west side of site). Photo #6 drums with labels, E 11 drums of HCL, 9 closed, two open, one drum of aluminum cleaner one drum of sodium hypochlorite (10%), one unlabeled drum, one empty 30 gallon drum labeled as NaCN. East correction done by H. Liserio on 2-28-90

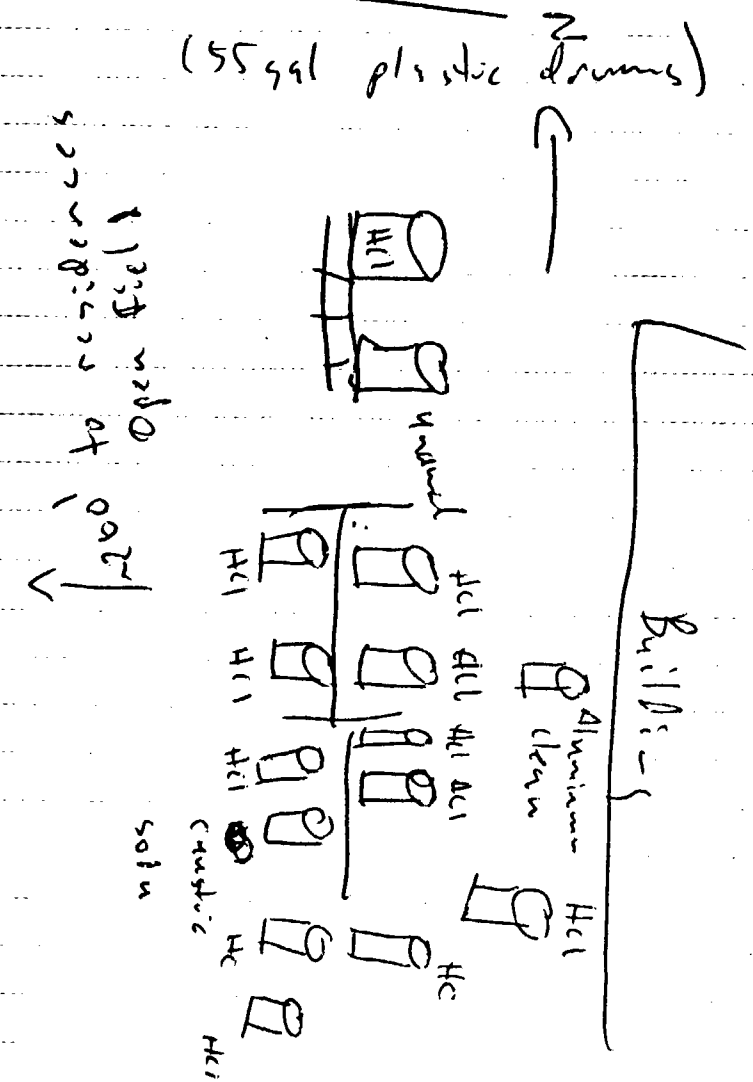
1610 - Photo #7, sand berm material used to stop leaks

Mr. Liserio

04-9002-35 2-28-90 Hi-Tech Plating

Drum Sketch

(55 gal plastic drums)



Mr. Liserio

06-9002-35 2-28-90 Hi-Tech

from south side of bldg., E, Yank/Lizerio, Photo #8 - Green stained area on parking lot by sanded area, E - Yank/Lizerio Photo #9 - Sanded material by south side of building to stop potential or past leaks, NW. Photo #10 - Close-up of concrete corroded by some past leak by sanded material, NE / Yank/Lizerio

1620- Call Steves at EPA office leave message to call back -

1622- Private citizen informs that that business has been out of business for approximately 6 weeks. Spencer and Taylor of EPA have been to site to do site inspection - Fire dept. officials have been onsite and inspected the inside of bldg. Citizen also reported that numerous water discharge violations have been logged against site operator for metals and cyanides

1630- Call fire dept. officials

Stay Tuned

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Fire Cheif will arrive at site to look at site with TAT -

1635- Talk with Paul Williams and Bob Grant of Balch Springs Fire dept. Property owner: Mr. Brown (not operator). 2000 gal (2 tanks), one 3000 gal of cyanide. One tank of HFl acid, tanks filled - Sand material put out by Fire dept. HCl tank leaked through tank and went out of bldg to drainage area - Leaks from bldg. have been detected before at bldg during operation - Approximate 80% of tank filled - Eight inches of precipitate, on bottom of tank Mr. Brown has contacted removal companies to conduct a possible site removal action - Three weeks ago actual operation shutdown

1655- Tanks have leaked at a frequent time.

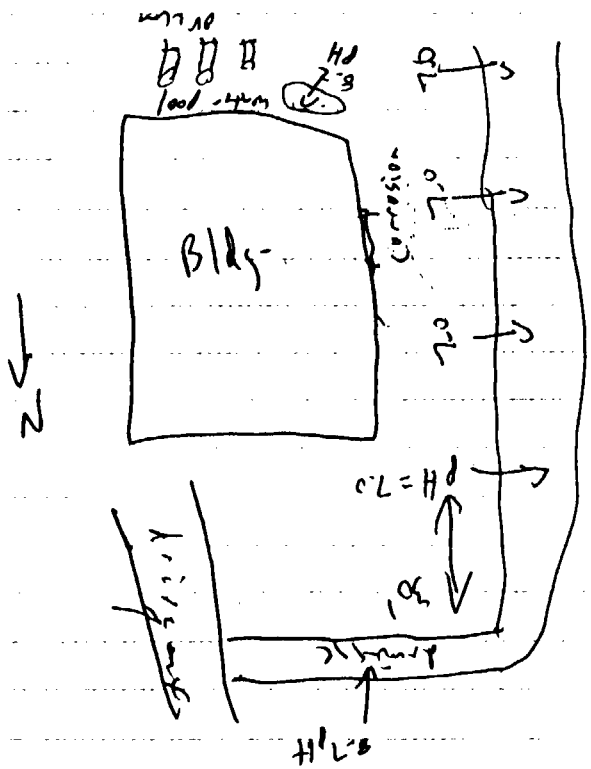
Stay Tuned

06-9002-35 2-28-90 Hi-Tech

1650 - Photo #11, corroded sealed material, N.

1655 - Reports of teenage teids in bldg, readily accessible. Approximately 66 units located onsite.

1700 - TAT takes pH reading with pH indicator strips and pH pen #696705 -



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1710 - pH of inside drum, HCl drum, pH = 6-3 with pH pen. All readings along north end taken with pH paper.

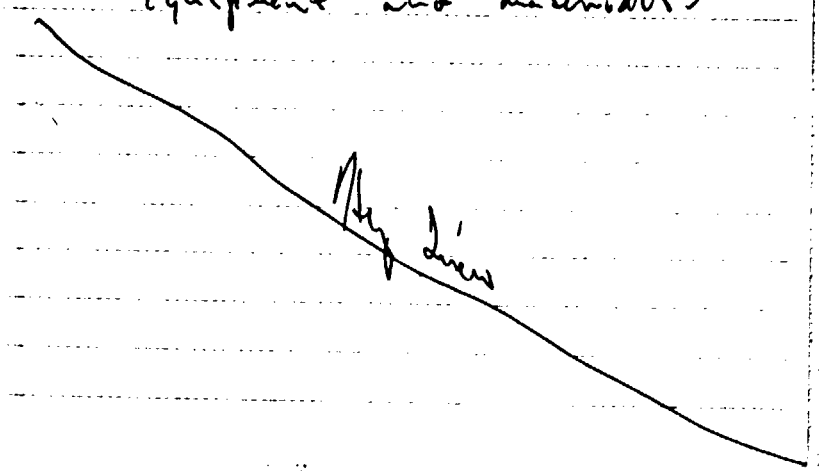
1715 - Photo #12, houses west of site, W - Yank/Lincoln. Fire chief departs site after informing TAT of site history.

1730 - pH of drainage near shared area on NE corner of site is 7.0 with pH pen.

1735 - TAT departs site. Attempts to reach OSC are futile.

1805 - Arrive at warehouse with equipment.

1815 - Depart warehouse after unloading equipment and materials.



06-9002-35 3-1-90 Hi-Tech Plating

1030 - TAT H. Liserio and T. Yank meet with OSC Hammack to Discuss site. Explain to OSC that material [illegible] from site to nearby pathways as informed by [illegible] and Fire Marshal Bob Grant [illegible] of site to OSC. [illegible] tests we conduct the [illegible] activities: Conduct deed [illegible] to find owner, contact TWC and city officials of site assessment, enter site and conduct a possible drum/vat sampling mission, pH testing of vats, and screening of wastes located on the site.

DO NOT SCAN

1230 - Call Bob Grant, Balch Springs Fire Dept. Notified him of proposed site assessment. Gave name of site owner, Edwin Brown, Troup, TX (214) 842-3107. TWC contact, Paul Cooper, Duncanville, TX - Abstract # 1564, Geo # 651564 355101 30000. Will meet us at site at 1000 hours.

1245 - Called site owner, Edwin Brown - Alex Liserio

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Mr. Brown won't be in office till tomorrow morning. Discuss purpose of visit with relative, Steve Brown, and notified him of concerns regarding site. Mr. Brown will notify Edwin Brown of proposed visit as soon as possible -

1300 - Prepare safety plan for sampling mission. Will use HazCat kit to check for cyanides.

1310 - Yank called Appraisal (Tax-Assessor) and verified that site owner is Edwin Brown. Abstract # same as before -

1510 - Received call from Paul Cooper TWC. Informed TAT that site operator was Reggie Gist, ~~of~~ may have relocated to Forney, TX. Industries located in area have water drainage shutdown due to high levels of cyanide, zinc, and other metals in Water treatment influent exceeding plant capacity.

1540 - Depart office to warehouse - Alex Liserio

06-9002-35 3-1-90 Hi-Tech Plating

to load up equipment I need to wait for truck to arrive at office.
1630- Arrive at warehouse to load up truck (Hiserio and Yunk) with equipment for assessment.
1800 - Arrive back at office after loading truck with equipment.

06-9002-35 3-2-90 Hi-Tech Plating

800 - TAT H. Hiserio, Project Manager, T. Yunk, Site Safety Officer / sampling and Gary Dry, Haz Cat / Sampling Coordinator meet at ~~site~~ ~~Prop~~ 3-2-90 warehouse. Try to contact Site owner, Edwin Brown, will call back later. Proposed activities: Haz cat vat wastes, inventory and identify site wastes inside building, take pH readings of site wastes, conduct air monitoring, photograph / VCR the building wastes. Safety meeting: Entry into building and all activities inside building are level B with Saranex, neoprene boots, hardhats, watch out for liquids (do not contact liquids - Watch for slip/fall hazards, overhead hazards.

845 - Call Edwin Brown. Mr. Brown requested that he talked with OSC directly instead of TAT. Informed TAT that he has been in contact with EPA RCRA

06-9002-35 3-2-90 Hi-Tech Plating

officials, TWC, and city fire dept. TAT Liserio informed Mr. Brown of relationship with EPA between TAT (consultant relationship). Desires to talked with OSC - will request that OSC contact him at later day.

900 - Depart to site (Yank, Liserio, and Dry).

930 - Arrive at site. OSC's Hammack and Mullins onsite with Yank, Liserio, and Dry. OSC calls E. Brown to talk with PRP to discuss situation. OSC Hammack advises Mr. Brown of emergency situation of site, acid spills, the Superfund act, the purpose of visit, the environmental threat to nearby residents, and authority

950 - of ERB Branch.

1000 - Bob Grant arrives at site. Adices OSC of past actions taken by state and city officials.

1030 - TAT Dry and Yank enter EZ in Level B, Liserio is backup in Level B. Dry and Yank

Hey Liew

06-9002-35 3-2-90 Hi-Tech Plating

to conduct HWU / explosimeter / and draeger tube readings. HWU used: ~~Instrument~~ Hey Liew 3-2-90 EPA TAT #1, Serial #, Calibrated with isobutylene gas, read 10 ppm at 9.7 spm setting with 11.7 probe. Draeger Pump # 607926. Checked for leaks, no leaks detected.

1045 - Grant / Hammack tour site. Grant informed OSC that city crews have treated with sand a spill which occurred a week ago. Bids received by Mr. Brown for cleanup. Sheet metal repaired at building face, kids were run out by fire dept who gained access through opening in sheet metal. Several platers in area have been targeted by Dallas Water District due to large discharges of metals and cyanides. Site owner was unaware of the operators business operations. Fire marshal had reports of chemical dumping on the soil behind facility (Balch Springs Marshall).

Hey Liew

06-9002-35 3-2-90 Hi-Tech

Hispanic labor force was working indoors without respirators, air has odor of HCl as witnessed by Fire Marshal. Also, fire marshals received complaints of odors in area. Operator has declared bankrupcy according to fire Marshal Grant. EPA RCRA contact: Everett Spencer 655-6475. Fire Marshal said that operator began around 2-86 and expanded since initial operation. Operator departed site by 2-1-90. HCl drums labels: Pioneer Chemi Inc., 100 N. Sam Houston, Mesquite TX 75149, 263-1092. TXD982288714 is RCRA number 116 Brown Inde Waxahachie 75165. Site Operator: Reggie Gist 452-61-2580, 6351 Vanderbilt, Dallas, TX 75214. Fire Marshal has informed OSC that sewer has been disconnected Dec. 1989 and that locals vandalizing the building. Operator is operating in Forney, TX according to Fire Marshals Alsg.

Hey Liseno

06-9002-35 3-2-90 Hi-Tech

may be located by Cox Industrial employees. Building previously used by Frito-Lay. Electrical company may be shutting power off at 24 Forney Industries, Terrell, TX. The fire dept. used wooden bung driven into one vat to stop leakage. Fire Marshal estimates 1000 persons, counting local industrial workers. Actually, wooden bung put in by 1100- Air Monitoring Results of initial entry.

Instrument	readings	location
HNU	< 0.2 ppm units	throughout bldg.
explosimeter	21% O_2	throughout bldg.
" "	no readings on LEL readout	
Acid draeger tube	2-5 ppm (20 strokes)	near middle of bldg.
HCN draeger	no reading	near north vats
cyanide draeger	2-4 mg/m^3	near north vats

strokes for HCN, CN^- tubes was 10. Miran 1-B, 2-5 ppm of HCN near north vats # 40-48. Instrument zeroed outside of building in fresh air. Miran 1B-2 readings

Hey Liseno

06-9602-35 3-2-90 Hi-Tech

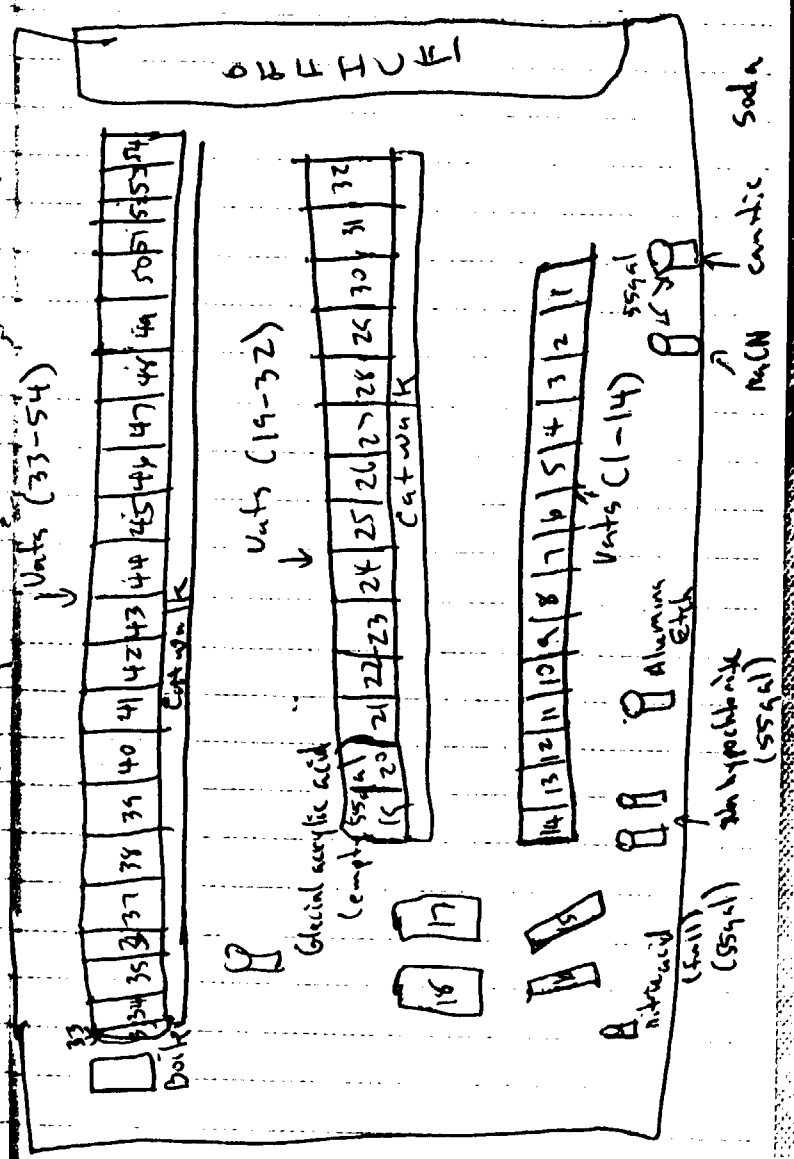
taken again near north vats; instrument zeroed outside in fresh air 5-8 ppm units using HCN Library. Instrument was calibrated using internal calibration program. Readings near south/middle row of vats were below 0ppm of HCN units.

1230- Miran 1B readings taken again near north vats, still 5-6 ppm HCN units. Draeger tubes for cyanide over vat # 48 indicates a red stain of 2-4 ~~pp~~ Hey Lewis 3-2-90 mg/m³ (1.8 - 3.6 ppm) for cyanides. Draeger tube for hydrocyanic acid was no detection in same location. Three HCN Draeger tubes taken at 10 stokes each with no detection. Second CN- Draeger also no detection at 10 stokes. Three more CN- draeger indicate no detection. indicated in middle of area near middle vat section.

Hey Lewis

06-9602-35 3-2-90 Hi-Tech

Site Sketch of inside bldg.



06-9002-35 3-2-90 Hi-Tech

THT inventories the Vats and takes pH readings of liquids contents

Unit #	Height	Width	depth	pH	length
1	4.5'	3.0'	3	13	10'
2	"		4.5	1	
3	"		4.5	7	
4	"		empty	—	
5	"		empty	—	
6	"		full	12	
7	"		2/3 full	2	
8	"		1	0	
9	"		full	0	
10	"		full	11	
11	"		full	13	
12	"		full	10	
13	"		full	4	
14	"		1'	10	
15	3'	1.5	full	13	
16	4'	3.0	full	5	
17	4'	4'	2"	7	4
18	5'	3'	3'	4	10'
19	6'		full	10	12'
20	"		full	7	
21	"		full	10	
22	"		1/2 full	0	

Key Lucas

06-9002-35 3-2-90 Hi-Tech

Unit #	width	Height	depth	pH	length
23	3'	6'	full	1	12'
24	3'		1/2 full	12	
25	3'		full	13	
26	8'		full	14	
27	8'		6"	14	
28	3'		6"	—	
29	3'		empty	—	
30	3'		empty	7	
31	4'		full	14	
32	3'		1/2 full	13	
33	3.5'	5'	2'	7	10'
34	4'	5'	1/2"	4	
35	4'	5'	full	2	
36	3.5'	5'	full	5	
37	4'	6 1/2'	1/2"	6	
38	5'	5'	full	0	
39	3'	5'	2'	9	
40	5'	5'	4'	6	
41	5'	5'	3'	12	
42	5'	6'	full	0	
43	5'		full	0	
44	5'		2'	>14	
45	4'		full	4	
46	4'		full	1	

Key Lucas

06-9002-35 3-2-90 Hi-Tech

Vat #	Height	Length	width	pH
47	6'	10'	4'	13
48	↓	↓	5'	13
49	↓	↓	5'	14
50	↓	4'	5'	0
51	↓	↓	5'	0
52	↓	↓	4'	0
53	↓	↓	5'	14
54	↓	↓	4'	13

Vat #	description	Vat #	description
1	clear	16	—
2	soapy	17	—
3	—	18	—
4	—	19	—
5	foam dark	20	—
6	dark	21	—
7	↓	22	blue foam
8	↓	23	dark
9	↓	24	dark
10	↓	25	dark
11	↓	26	—
12	↓	27	—
13	—	28	—
14	rinse	29	—
15	—	30	—

— they turn —

06-9002-35 3-2-90 Hi-Tech

Vat #	description	Vat #	description
31	dark	43	Lined plastic
32	dark	44	dark
33	—	45	green
34	empty	46	dark
35	H_2O ambient	47	dark
36	Al dip yellow ambient	48	dark
37	H_2O ambient	49	white crystals dark green
38	Deo DSC592 ambient	50	soapy green
39	H_2O	51	dark green
40	etchant	52	↓
41	soak SK1003 [illegible]	53	↓
42	Lined plastic	54	↓

1245 – Yank collects samples in test tubes from vats 40, 48, 49. The pH of all vats taken with pH indicator strips. Yank uses, haz cat kit, checks pH to make sure above 11.0, adds reagent for cyanide. Hazcat results: Vat # 40, 3 drops of ROD and one drop $AgNO_3$ results in slight color change to Lt. brn. Vat # 48, 1 drop of $AgNO_3$ and

06-9002-35 3-2-90 Hi-Tech

ROD results in no color change
(3 drops still no color change
No color change indicates
Mg Lin 3-2-90 ~~no~~ cyanide present. Vat #49
has same results which also
indicates prescence of cyanide
above 50 ppm - Summary of
air monitoring results:
Draeger tubes: CN^-, 2-4 mg/m^3
above vat #49; otherwise no
readings detected in general
breathing area - HCN, HCl,
draeger tubes indicated no readings
in breathing area or near vats -
Total acid - 2-3 mg/m^3 near
vats and breathing areas. —
1400 - Site assessment activitoes
concluded for today. Mirar
1B-2 readings ranged from -4.0-
6.5 ppm. Highest readings 5-8
ppm was above the north vats,
1430 - Crew takes lunch.
1500 - Crew departs site to meet OSC
Mullins and Hammack to discuss
results of site assessment response

Mary Lucero

06-9002-35 3-2-90 Hi-Tech

with OSC/Gazda and lawyers for
EPA, Dry to accompany Liberio.
to EPA building.
545 - Meeting conducted with OSC's
Hammack, Mullins, Gazda,
Greg Fife, David Gray, Kim
Turnpaugh of Criminal Investigation
Division for EPA, and 2 EPA
lawyers. Film of activities and
site shown by OSC's to other
officials present at the meeting.
After discussing the threats posed
by the site, OSC and C. Gazda
agree that an emergency
removal action is warranted
at the site. Plans are made
to contact owner of the need
for immediate actions at the site.
Otherwise, ERCS will be mobilized
to the site to take necessary
actions at the site.
115 - Depart EPA building to
warehouse to unload supplies -
Talk with RSO C. Franklin
of situation, and Chris Ouvi

Mary Lucero

06-9002-35 3-2-90 Hi-Tech

1815- G. Dry and H. Liserio depart warehouse after unloading equipment - Future plans included meeting OSC at site to take immediate removal actions -

06-9002-35 3-3-90 Hi-Tech Planning

745- Arrive at warehouse to pick up van and equipment. Henry Liserio only that at warehouse - Depart to office to pick more supplies and safety information.
800- called Pat Hummack, OSC requests that we meet here at site at 930 hours to discuss plans - Called Bob Grant, Fire Marshal, left message with fire station that we would be at the site to do possible removal actions. OSC will try to contact site owner to request action on his part and inform him of the need for quick stabilization action required to remedy immediate threats posed by site wastes - Package sampling materials for personnel monitoring (MCEF filters / midget impingers, NAOH for cyanides, silica gel tubes for inorganic acids.
900- Depart to site to meet OSC
940- Arrive at site - PRR, MO

06-9002-35 3-3-90 Hi-Tech

Edwin Brown, has contacted EM-Tech and ~~the~~ Hey Lee 3-3-90 Dallas Environ to take stabilization actions. Present at site are Pat Hammack, Edwin Brown, Chip Day, Response manager for EM-Tech, 4 employees of EM-Tech, and one Dallas Environ Services employee. The crew is working in Level C to take actions. Actions taken by contractors - visqueen over cyanide tanks, drums from outside building moved inside, leaks have been reduced and stabilize. Mr. Brown contacted police dept. to provide extra security for site.

1100 - OSC advises Mr. Brown that actions need to be taken within next week to instigate removal action, the formal communication paperwork he will receive describing EPA's past communications with him. Photo #1-3, E, Visqueen over cyanide tanks, Liserio - Photo #4, N, area where drums

Hey Lee

06-9002-35 3-3-90 Hi-Tech

were located, Liserio. Camera used was same as before on previous days.

115 - Crew (EM-Tech, Dallas Environmental), TAT, and OSC depart site. TAT to go to office to leave off equipment.

200 - TAT arrives at office. Equipment and SCBA's offloaded

300 - TAT departs office to whse to continue offloading of equipment and supplies.

400 - TAT Liserio departs whse for home. Future monitoring actions are pending upon OSC decision

Hey Lee

TARGET SHEET

SITE NAME: HIGH-TECH PLATING

CERCLIS I.D.: TXD174127407

TITLE OF DOC.: TECHNICAL DIRECTION DOCUMENT T06-9002-35 AND AMENDMENTS A & B

DATE OF DOC.: March 12, 30, 1990 and April 27, 1990

NO. OF PGS. THIS TARGET SHEET REPLACES: 3

SDMS #: 174766-174768 **KEYWORD:** 91.03

CONFIDENTIAL ?	X	MISSING PAGES ?	
ALTERN. MEDIA ?		CROSS REFERENCE ?	X

LAB DOCUMENT ?		LAB NAME:	
ASC./BOX #:		RAW ANALYT. DATA ?	
CASE #:		SDG #:	

COMMENTS : These documents have been moved to records 174766, 174767 and 174768. The documents contain confidential business information that has been refiled in Contractor Confidential.