EPA Region 8 Spot Report: Fort Duchesne Chemicals

US Environmental Protection Agency

Report as of Feb 8 2018 1:56PM

Overview: The tribal headquarters for the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation is located in Fort Duchesne, Uintah County, Utah. There is a historic stone structure in Fort Duchesne that was once used to store ammunition. For several years, this building has been used to store hazardous chemicals. The building is located in a residential area next to a senior center.

State, Local and other Fedeal Agency Actions: Representatives from the Ute Tribe requested assistance from EPA Region 8's Brownfields Program to collect and dispose of the chemicals found in the historic structure. This request was referred to EPA Region 8's Emergency Response Unit. The State of Utah has been notified.

EPA Actions: An On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) with EPA Region 8's Emergency Response Unit visited the Site on February 6, 2018 and immediately noticed the distinct smell of chemicals. Upon visual inspection inside the storage facility, the OSC was able to identify large amounts of pesticides (including malathion), herbicides, corrosives and other chemicals. Many of the containers in the facility are compromised and leaking. A full inventory of the facility was not possible due to health and safety concerns.

The Response Unit will deploy a team to the Site on February 12, 2018. The damaged and undamaged containers of chemicals will be removed from the facility, secured and over-packed into larger containers suitable for transport to a hazardous waste disposal facility. The storage facility will then be cleaned of remnant contamination. A nearby fenced area owned by the Ute Tribe will be used as a temporary staging area.

The OSC and PIO have established the following website for this response:

https//response.epa.gov/FortDuchesneChemicals

Media Interest: Low

Note: The OSC for this response is Todd DeGarmo. The PIO is Katherine Jenkins.

For further information, contact OSC Martin McComb at 720-413-9190.

The Region 8 EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed