UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region III

Subject: **POLREP #1**
Initial Polrep - EPA Activities in Support of USCG OSC
Trinseo Polymer Release

Bristol, PA
Latitude: 40.0962840 Longitude: -74.8724390

To: R3 RRC, US EPA R3

From: Kelley Chase/Chris Wagner
Date: 3/26/2023
Reporting Period: 3/24/23-3/26/23

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:		**Contract Number:**	
D.O. Number:		**Action Memo Date:**	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	**Response Type:**	Emergency
Response Lead:	USCG	**Incident Category:**	Removal Assessment
NPL Status:	Non NPL	**Operable Unit:**	
Mobilization Date:	3/25/2023	**Start Date:**	
Demob Date:		**Completion Date:**	
CERCLIS ID:		**RCRIS ID:**	
ERNS No.:		**State Notification:**	
FPN#:		**Reimbursable Account #:**	

1.1.1 Incident Category
Emergency Response

1.1.2 Site Description
Release of Acrylic Polymer into Delaware River

1.1.2.1 Location
100 Rte 413 Bristol, Bucks County, VA

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat
Release of hazardous substances, pollutant, or contaminants which may affect drinking water intakes

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results
An assessment performed by EPA and PA DEP revealed the initial uncontrolled release of an acrylic polymer from a facility to a creek which discharges to the Delaware River. Several drinking water intakes are located in the area.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative
Altuglas (also known as Trinseo) reported a release of 90,000 lbs. of acrylic polymer from a facility in Bristol, PA. The release entered a creek which discharges to the Delaware River. The incident was reported close to midnight on 3/24/23. Local County and facility hazmat teams responded and were able to plug the release.

The incident is in USCG jurisdiction. USCG is the Federal On-Scene Coordinator for this incident.

On 3/25/23, the head pressure behind the plug forced additional polymer to release around the plug. The facility did not perform prompt and effective mitigation efforts.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date
PA DEP responded during the night of 3/24-3/25. On 3/25, an EPA OSC responded to the scene and assisted PA DEP with assessment. USCG was on scene. Later that day, a USCG FOSCR arrived on scene to assume the Federal On Scene Coordinator role. USCG is performing response actions under the authority of the National Contingency Plan.

Through the water utility emergency warning system, drinking water companies were notified. Three drinking water intakes are in the area of the spill - two in PA and one in NJ. The EPA R3 Duty Officer notified EPA Region 2.

PADEP established a drinking water group which is comprised of local, state, and federal (including EPA) officials and private water companies. The City of Philadelphia issued a drinking water advisory, but did not

issue a mandatory NO DRINK order.

The water utilities have in-house capabilities for sampling. In-house sampling was conducted throughout the weekend.

USCG oversaw cleanup actions on Site.

PADEP contacted EPA on 3/26/23 to request assistance with water sampling on the Delaware River. EPA and START performed sampling upstream and downstream of the 3 drinking water intakes as well as two other areas of potential concern.

Split samples were sent to Aqua, a drinking water utility with in-house laboratory facilities and also to Eurofins, a private laboratory.

The City of Philadelphia activated its EOC and requested an EPA representative. An EPA R3 OSC is filling this role.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)
The reporting party was identified as Altuglas. The personnel on scene are identified as Tinseo. Since this happened on a weekend EPA is unsure of this connection at this time. EPA will seek the assistance of the regional cost recovery team.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	*Medium*	*Quantity*	*Manifest #*	*Treatment*	*Disposal*

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities
EPA sample results are expected 3/27/23

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities
EPA has no current requests from the USCG FOSCR

2.2.2 Issues

USCG is the Federal On Scene Coordinator for this incident. EPA is preparing this polrep to document actions performed in support of the USCGA

2.3 Logistics Section
No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer
Safety is being managed by USCG Sector Delaware Bay

2.5.2 Liaison Officer
An EPA OSC is deployed to the City of Phila EOC as EPA Liaison

2.5.3 Information Officer
USCG has established a PIO group to coordinate messages to the public

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command
USCG - FOSC
PA DEP
NJ DEP
Bucks County EMA
City of Phila EMA
Trinseo (PRP)

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

4. Personnel On Site
No information available at this time.

5. Definition of Terms
PA DEP - Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
NJ DEP - New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

6. Additional sources of information
No information available at this time.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.