U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
West Fertilizer Inc. - Removal Polrep

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region VI

Subject: **POLREP #2**
Progress (DRAFT)
West Fertilizer Inc.

West, TX
Latitude: 31.8165640 Longitude: -97.0877630

To: Ragan Broyles, US EPA
Lawrence Stanton, EPA HQ
Anthony Buck, TCEQ

From: Gary Moore, Federal On-Scene Coordinator
Date: 4/19/2013
Reporting Period: 4/18/2013

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:		**Contract Number:**	
D.O. Number:		**Action Memo Date:**	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	**Response Type:**	Emergency
Response Lead:		**Incident Category:**	
NPL Status:	Non NPL	**Operable Unit:**	
Mobilization Date:	4/17/2013	**Start Date:**	4/17/2013
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

Fire and explosion at a fertilizer formulation facility

1.1.2.1 Location

West, Texas

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The release of agricultural chemicals into the environment which may impact human health.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

The facility was destroyed in the fire and explosion, with the exception of four "bullet" tanks and a hopper car filled with ammonium nitrate. The ammonium nitrate gondola car was blown off the rail siding, damaged, and released powdered fertilizer onto the ground.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

On April 17, 2013 a fire and explosion occurred at the West Fertilizer Company located in West, Texas. Local, state, and federal law enforcement and response personnel have responded to the incident. The U.S. EPA has mobilized personnel to the incident to conduct air monitoring activities upon request from Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

The impact of the explosion has impacted an approximate ½ mile radius which includes residential homes, a nursing home, an apartment community and several schools.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

At 0000 hours on April 18, 2013 the EPA Airborne Spectral Photometric Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft conducted an overflight of the facility and surrounding area. Ammonia levels during the overflight were detected between 6 to10 parts per million (ppm) at 650 feet downwind or southeast of the site and consistent with wind direction. (modified)

At 1208 hours on April 18, 2013, the EPA ASPECT conducted a second overflight of the facility and surrounding area. Ammonia levels during the overflight were detected southeast of the site and consistent with wind direction. The detections were at 6 ppm and 3 ppm.

Between 0430 to 0530 on April 18, 2013 the 6th Civil Support Team (CST) and Waco Fire Department HAZMAT conducted a Level B entry to deploy air monitoring instrumentation near the incident location. On April 18, 2013, TCEQ contractors performed an entry to assess a leaking anhydrous ammonia tank on-site. According to TCEQ representatives, the release was secured by closing a valve on one of the bullet tanks.

EPA is performing air monitoring in residential areas around the site, including areas where search and rescue operations are on-going and areas not affected by the evacuation order, which remained in place as of 1800 hrs on 18 April. Specific chemicals being monitored for are volatile organic compounds, hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, carbon monoxide, and lower explosive limit of methane gas. As of 0030 on 19 April, no significant air monitoring results have been collected by EPA.

EPA is coordinating with Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Chemical Safety Board (CSB), Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), 6th CST, and the Office of the Texas State Chemist on current and future site operations.

TCEQ contractors have been deployed and are currently conducting air monitoring around the facility perimeter. Other state and local responders continue conducting search and rescue operations in affected neighborhoods near the incident location.

An official statement of the cause of the incident has not been released. Investigations into the order of events and cause of the explosion are on-going.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

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

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Emergency personnel will continue to conduct search and rescue activities

EPA and TCEQ will conduct air monitoring activities throughout neighborhoods near the incident location.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Air monitoring activities by both TCEQ and EPA will continue.

The EPA OSC and EPA CID Agent-in-Charge will attend a briefing for Agency Leads on April 19 at 0800 hrs and will participate in a tour of the incident location including the area excluded by law enforcement.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

2.2.2 Issues

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

No information available at this time.

4. Personnel On Site

No information available at this time.

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

No information available at this time.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.