

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
11184 Bristol Air - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region III

**Subject:** **POLREP #4**  
**Progress Report - RSE Initial Data Review and Summary**  
**11184 Bristol Air**

**Bristol, VA**  
**Latitude: 36.6029424 Longitude: -82.1539850**

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**From:** Myles Bartos, OSC

**Date:** 10/8/2021

**Reporting Period:** August 1 through October 8, 2021

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	B3AR	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	
<b>Response Lead:</b>	EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Assessment
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	6/7/2021	<b>Start Date:</b>	5/25/2021
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>		<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

This incident is a removal site evaluation at the location continued and numerous odor complaints are occurring. The complaints include a description of various chemical smells and related health effects.

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

The Site currently includes a large geographic area at/near the Virginia and Tennessee border. Both Virginia and Tennessee have a City of Bristol which are immediately adjacent to each other across the border. Both cities are experiencing significant odor complaints from both residential, commercial, and government property owners.

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

The Site is located in the Cities of Bristol, Virginia and Bristol, Tennessee

##### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The potential threats posed by this Site are currently unknown. Several compounds (odor causing compounds and volatile organic compounds) have been identified to be in the air at low levels during various periods of the day. Typically the levels have risen at night. Initial review of the monitoring data and sampling data does not show duration or concentrations that would trigger a removal action. Six weeks of monitoring and sampling have been completed.

##### 1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

See previous POLREPs

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

See above and below.

**2.1.2 Response Actions to Date**

The OSC has compiled all of the real time and laboratory data collected during the 6-week period from June 8th through July 22nd, 2021. This is part of a removal site evaluation (RSE) as described in 40 CFR 300.410. The RSE included a preliminary removal assessment which is primarily administrative in nature. The OSC reviewed documented complaints of odors and physical affects the community was reporting. Additionally, historical sampling data supplied by the VADEQ was reviewed and evaluated. This was followed by a site inspection with onsite presence throughout the communities of both Bristol, Virginia and Bristol, Tennessee. The "Site", defined as the communities in both Bristol, Virginia and Bristol, Tennessee who have reported significant odors, is where the removal site inspection occurred. This removal site inspection included 6-weeks of air monitoring and air sampling for hazardous substances such as those listed in 40 CFR 302.4.

The OSC maintained communication with all salient agencies in both Regions 3 and Region 4 to ensure information was appropriately shared. Communication included conference calls with VADEQ, TDEC, both Cities of Bristol on several occasions. A focus was on data and information sharing, identifying authorities and limitations, and providing accurate information across agencies and to the public. This included working with various programs within each agency such as EPA Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division (ECAD) within Region 3.

The EPA and partner Agencies (ATSDR, VADEQ, TDEC, both Cities of Bristol, etc) maintained communications with citizens of both Bristol, Virginia and Tennessee both individually and collectively. Several meetings with the community leaders occurred with these Agencies in the form of one on one phone calls as well as multi agency virtual video meetings. The OSC spoke to community members and leaders on numerous occasions to discuss their concerns. During these meetings, the OSC described the authorities and limitations of the EPA removal program in detail. The OSC also, at a much higher level, discussed the concepts of other EPA programmatic and partner Agency roles in the overall effort. Conversations in late September and early October with the citizens indicated that the odors have increased in frequency and intensity.

Several of these conversations focused on understanding the reported increase in odor intensity and frequency. The community has been doing some surveying by driving around and noting where the odors were. The OSC informed a prominent community leader that due to the public concern and reporting of more intense odors, EPA may conduct additional monitoring. The OSC requested the community leader(s) to provide locations that are of particular concern. On October 7th, the community group provided seven (7) locations of concern to EPA. The OSC subsequently requested the leaders to prioritize the locations in order of importance.

The community planned to hold a community meeting to address and voice concerns regarding the odors on October 12th. EPA was invited to attend by public officials from Tennessee and offered to attend in a virtual capacity. After further discussions with all interested parties, the purpose of the meeting became clearer and EPA offered to attend if the community group requested our attendance. The OSC spoke directly with the Community leader organizing the event and made the offer to attend if directly invited.

On October 1st, the OSC was contacted by GreenToxicology via email regarding the results of the monitoring.

On October 6th, the District Director from Congresswoman Harshbarger's (TN01) Office contacted the OSC requesting a briefing on the work being done for the Site. The OSC responded and forwarded the request to the Office of Public Affairs for follow up.

On October 8th, 2021, EPA published the "Data Summary Report" that details the air monitoring and sampling results from the June and July effort. This report detailed the data collected over the 6 week period and organized it by week, then location, then chemical.

On October 8th, 2021 the OSC provided a status briefing to Region 3 and 4 senior management regarding the status of the Site.

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

None identified.

**2.1.4 Progress Metrics**

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

**2.2 Planning Section**

**2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

EPA will continue coordination with the community. Once the community provides EPA with prioritized locations for additional monitoring, EPA will work to identify specific properties for the monitors.

The EPA will continue to engage the various agencies and programs that are salient to the site. Additionally, the EPA will continue to respond to questions and concerns from the community.

**2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

**2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

After receipt of priority areas from the communities, EPA with VADEQ assistance, will identify specific properties for monitoring. Three additional locations are anticipated.

#### **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**

#### **3.1 Unified Command**

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR)  
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ)

#### **3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

City of Bristol Virginia  
City of Bristol Tennessee  
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)

### **4. Personnel On Site**

No information available at this time.

### **5. Definition of Terms**

VOC: Volatile Organic Compound  
PID: Photo Ionization Detector  
FID: Flame Ionization Detector  
SPM: Single Point Monitor.

### **6. Additional sources of information**

No information available at this time.

### **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.