

Bay - Environmental Pollution. D. 5/17/77

Acid tank ruptures into sewers, bay

A Bayonne chemical plant tank containing some 10,000 gallons of hydrochloric acid burst its seams early yesterday morning, spilling a small amount of acid into city sewers and storm drains leading to the Kill Van Kull, according to a company spokesman.

The fiberglass-reinforced plastic tank on the site of ICI Americas Inc. sprung a leak around 5 a.m., said Dr. Joseph Barker, plant manager.

"Under emergency procedures, the acid was immediately neutralized. As a result, only a small quantity of the acid, which was very diluted, entered the sewer system," Barker said.

Company employees and outside contractors worked to mop up the site at East 22nd Street and Avenue J. Barker said the situation was completely under control by 9 a.m. and employees were expected to finish the clean-up today.

Officials from the Environmental Protection Agency, the state Bureau of Hazardous Wastes, the Coast Guard, Conrail (Conrail tracks run through the property), the city Fire Prevention Bureau and city and county health officers were on the scene supervising the cleanup and investigating the spill, Barker said.

"Hydrochloric acid can cause skin irritation and eventually burn the skin if it is not washed off quickly," he said.

Federal, county and city officials determined that the cleanup was proceeding satisfactorily and the acid was neutralized so as to present no danger, said Barker.

"To begin with, the acid was diluted and when neutralized with sodium hydroxide it becomes harmless," he added.

An inspector for the Bayonne Fire Prevention Bureau said, "The acid is dangerous to one's health if the vapors

Fire officials said a pump was on the scene in case the acid were highly concentrated, in which form contact with a base metal might have sparked a fire.

Edward Sweeney, director of the Department of Public Works, Parks and Recreation, said several trucks carried sand to the site which was used to build small dikes around the ruptured tank, preventing a good deal of acid from escaping.

The sand used for the dikes will be dumped in a landfill approved by the federal Environmental Protection Agency, Barker said, although he did not know exactly where.

Barker said he wasn't "sure" why the 17,000 gallon tank split, but deemed the materials used to construct the tank "generally of a good type."

He said the tank was inspected about 10 months ago and found in satisfactory condition. Fire officials said the tank appeared properly maintained and that their inspection showed no violations of any kind. "It was an industrial accident," one fire inspector said.

Hydrochloric acid is used by the firm as a by-product in making the chlorinated rubber and chlorinated paraffins manufactured by ICI, Barker explained.

Assistant superintendent of the Bayonne sewerage treatment plant John Adie said initial inspection showed "the situation was under control and there appeared to be no damage to the sewer system."

"We intend to inspect the sewer lines adjacent to the plant in case the acid deteriorated some of the concrete lining," Adie said.

But the acid was quickly neutralized and diluted, and it appeared most of the acid was contained above ground in the tank. "We don't foresee any real problems," he added.

Fire officials said the company is draining the acid still in the damaged tank into another tank.

Barker said one employee suffered minor burns during the clean-up and was treated at the plant infirmary. Workers wore protective masks and clothing during the clean-up process, fire officials added.

Barker said that to his knowledge an accident of this type has never before occurred at the plant.

Bay - Environmental Pollution. D. 7/2

Ship spills oil 120,000 gallons

By JAYE ANN TERRY
and PAUL MOSES

A huge freighter spilled 120,000 gallons of oil into the Kill Van Kull late Saturday after the vessel rammed into jagged rocks less than a mile from the Bayonne waterfront, Coast Guard officials reported.

The 648-foot container ship was towed into drydock at the Military Ocean Terminal in Bayonne by 5 a.m., but it left behind a "major pollution incident" that fouled the Bayonne shore and beaches in Staten Island, authorities said.

No injuries were reported in the incident.

The Liberian-registered ship—bound for Jeddah, Saudi Arabia—ran aground in the channel between Staten Island and Bayonne off Bergen Point at 9 p.m. Saturday, shortly after departing from

Port Elizabeth. Coast Guard Petty Officer Brian Taylor said.

Randolph Erlandson, a diver who helping patch the ship, the Seaspeed Arabia, said the oil seeped from an 85-foot-long gash in two ruptured petroleum tanks.

Hoegh Shipping Co. of New York, owner of the Seaspeed Arabia, hired three private firms to begin a cleanup operation, Officer Taylor said.

James Manzari, a consultant overseeing the cleanup in Bayonne and Staten Island, said huge seaborne vacuums were being used to sweep the surface of the water, and booms were floated to contain the oil. The cleanup began at 10 p.m. Saturday, he said.

Manzari said it is too soon to know how long the cleanup will take, or what environmental impact it will have on the Bayonne waterfront.

Bayonne Borsky said prohibited estimated 8 barrels of oil shore.

The ship, cargo container truck and vessel is no longer in the water.

The oil spill yesterday's trade of small down the Hudson River.

The rear Seaspeed Arabia, and a slick of oil vessel as it docked Water hull, floating it drip down vents, Manzari said.

BBA000002

Ecologists can't make firm pay more

Jersey Journal 9/30/91

By Steven Kalcanides
Journal staff writer

No extra fines for 1989 ICI ammonia spill

Bayonne activist Marc Liebeskind has been unsuccessful in his bid to make ICI Americas Inc., a local chemical manufacturing company, pay additional fines for an ammonia spill in 1989 that injured five people.

A Hudson County Superior Court judge Thursday ruled against Liebeskind, president of the Bayonne Citizens for Clean Air, saying he had no cause of action against the East 22nd Street company.

"The judge said the law that I was attempting to rely upon, the Environmental Rights Act, did not allow me to seek fines against ICI," Liebeskind said Friday.

"That was his opinion. I disagree with it. But I won't appeal it," he said.

Liebeskind had brought the suit against ICI in November, 1989, following the ammonia spill. He had originally sought injunctive relief from the court on his

contention that ICI was a threat to the safety of residents and could not guarantee against mishaps.

David Payne, attorney for ICI, said Judge Robert E. Tarleton ruled Thursday afternoon that Liebeskind had no case against the East 22nd Street firm.

"The judge ruled in ICI's favor that Marc had no cause of action against ICI in regard to the ammonia spill that occurred in October of 1989," Payne said Friday.

He and Liebeskind appeared in front of Tarleton in the Justice William Brennan Courthouse in Jersey City.

ICI paid the state a \$13,000 fine on June 20, 1990 for the ammonia spill, which had hospitalized three adults and two children, but Liebeskind said the company should have been fined \$60,000.

ICI attorney Payne had claimed early in the case

that Liebeskind had no standing to force ICI to pay fine penalties of \$50,000 under the Spill Compensation Control Act and \$10,000 under the Air Pollution Control Act.

The state Department of Environmental Protection settled the fine with ICI by requiring them to pay \$13,000 under the spill act. The DEP did not seek a penalty under the Air Pollution Control Act, Liebeskind had said.

However, the federal Environmental Protection Agency announced later the same day, however, it had reached a settlement with ICI Americas under which the firm will pay a \$60,000 fine for failing to immediately notify the National Response Center of the Oct. 21, 1989 release of ammonia from its Bayonne facility.

The NRC was not notified of the release until 72 hours after it happened, the EPA

said.

"The federal Superfund law requires companies to immediately report accidental releases of hazardous substances from their facilities to the National Response Center," said EPA Regional Administrator Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff. "The NRC then coordinates any necessary federal response to the release."

"The failure to alert the NRC hampers the ability of the federal government to respond to these releases and to provide assistance."

Tarleton on Dec. 21, 1989 had denied Liebeskind's request for an injunction against ICI Americas, but said he would keep jurisdiction over the matter until he could review enforcement of regulations by the DEP.

Tarleton had said he denied the request because the threat of irreparable injury to the public was too speculative.

In his suit, Liebeskind listed several documented incidents at ICI over the course of several years, which he said proved the firm is unable to operate without posing a threat.

The company began evaluating its operating procedures following the ammonia spill release, which had occurred after a refrigeration operator cracked a valve that released ammonia into a partly dismantled pipe system leading to the ground, according to reports at the time.

A total of 630 gallons of ammonia evaporated and swept sections of the Constable Hook section on the city's industrial east side at the time.

ICI, which has operated in Bayonne since 1965, uses ammonia as a coolant during the processing of Fluon, a non-stick surfacing material the company manufactures at the facility.

BBA000004



Region 2


<http://www.epa.gov/region2/waste/asahi.htm>

Last updated on Tuesday, October 20th, 2009.

You are here: [EPA Home](#) > [Region 2 Waste](#) > [NJ RCRA Cleanup Fact Sheet](#) > AGC Chemicals Americas, Inc.

AGC Chemicals Americas Incorporated

Other (Former) Names of Site: Standard Oil, Exxon, ICI Americas, Asahi Glass Fluoropolymers USA

EPA Identification Number:	NJD001787944
Facility Location:	229 East 22nd Street, Bayonne, New Jersey 
Facility Contact Name:	Nunzio Pollifrone, (201) 858-8925
EPA Contact Name:	Ernst Jabouin, (212) 637-4104, jabouin.ernst@epa.gov
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Case Manager:	Mark Walters, (609) 633-0721
Last Updated:	December 2005
Environmental Indicator Status:	Human Exposures Under Control [PDF 1,019.95 KB, 25 pp] has been verified. Groundwater Contamination Under Control: Unacceptable migration of contaminated groundwater is observed.

Site Description

The facility is located at 229 East 22nd Street, Bayonne, New Jersey. Exxon, formerly Standard Oil, began operations at this facility in the late 1890's. Exxon's use of the site included storage, transfer and distribution of petroleum, and operation of a pump house to transfer petroleum products through a pipeline between the Bayonne and Bayway refineries. Exxon's operations at the site also included the disposal of slop oils, tank bottoms and other refinery wastes in on-site landfills and lagoons. ICI Americas purchased the property from Exxon in four separate transactions between 1965 and 1969. ICI produced one product, polytetrafluoroethylene (Fluon). In 1999, Asahi Glass Fluoropolymers USA, Inc., purchased ICI and is continuing operations at the site. On January 1, 2004, Asahi changed its name to AGC Chemicals Americas, Inc.

The City of Bayonne has informed AGC that an independent developer is interested in redeveloping a portion of the property and that the city may pursue condemnation of the parcel if it is not sold. Concerns remain about the remediation and containment of the non-recoverable product at Plume 13-ICIC and its compatibility with redevelopment plans.

Potential Threats and Contaminants

Petroleum-related contamination at the site occurred when Exxon operated there. Contamination occurred due to leaks and discharges from petroleum storage tanks, on-site

landfills, lagoons and sewer lines. Contamination originating from leaks in a trichloroethylene, carbon tetrachloride, and chloroform storage tank and releases in the processing area, is attributed to ICI operations at the site. Both soil and groundwater have been contaminated with volatile organic chemicals, such as xylene, benzene, chlorobenzene, ethylbenzene, toluene and naphthalene. Contamination from metals includes, but is not limited to, arsenic, chromium, mercury, zinc, lead, nickel, manganese and cadmium.

Cleanup Approach and Progress

Exxon and ICI are completing cleanup activities at the AGC site. As stated in an agreement between Exxon and ICI, Exxon is responsible for the cleanup of any petroleum or Exxon-related contamination at the site and ICI is responsible for its contamination. After contamination was found at the site during routine inspections by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Exxon conducted numerous investigations at the site.

The investigations included soil sampling, groundwater sampling and test-pit excavations. These investigations were conducted to delineate the contamination at the site. A video inspection of the sewer lines was conducted by ICI to determine where leaks occurred and what lines needed to be replaced. The entire corroded sewer lines were replaced and associated contaminated soil was removed. Contaminated soil associated with the storage tanks has also been removed from the site.

The groundwater Environmental Indicator has not been achieved. Exxon has submitted a Remedial Action Selection Report for Plume 13-ICIC (RASR) and a Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP) for soils at the AGC site. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has conditionally approved both. The RASR proposes the installation of a cut-off wall, a low-permeability cover, shallow groundwater collection, and removal and replacement of off-site contamination. The RAWP proposes soil excavation and disposal and/or thermal treatment.

Site Repository

Copies of supporting technical documents and correspondence cited in the site fact sheet are available for public review at the following location:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Solid & Hazardous Waste
Records Center
401 E. State Street, 6th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08625
Telephone: (609) 777-3373

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) makes available its public records through formal request under the Open Public Records Act (OPRA).