

**Summary of Notification of Incident
- pursuant to Section 14 of the
Waste Management and Pollution Control Act**

07/02/07

Company: ORICA Australia Pty Ltd
Incident: Spill of Solid Cyanide from a Road Train
Location: 30kms South of Renner Springs, NT.

THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON NOTIFYING OF THE INCIDENT –

Allan McGregor (Yarwun Site SHE Manager)

THE INCIDENT CAUSING OR THREATENING TO CAUSE POLLUTION –

Two containers of a three-container load of solid cyanide (pellets) tipped over in a road traffic accident, spilling their contents onto the side of the road and into a non-flowing watercourse (pond).

THE PLACE WHERE THE INCIDENT OCCURRED –

30 kilometres South of Renner Springs in the Northern Territory.

THE DATE AND TIME OF THE INCIDENT –

Orica were contacted about this incident at 14.00 on 07/02/07.

HOW THE POLLUTION OCCURRED, IS OCCURRING OR MAY OCCUR –

Cyanide was in direct contact with the ground and an amount had also gone into the watercourse (pond).

THE ATTEMPTS MADE TO PREVENT, REDUCE, CONTROL, RECTIFY OR CLEAN UP THE POLLUTION OR RESULTANT ENVIRONMENTAL HARM CAUSED OR THREATENING TO BE CAUSED BY THE INCIDENT –

Initial attempts focussed on containment of the spill and minimising the amount of Cyanide from the two containers from reaching the soil or water. An earthen bund was placed on the upstream side of the spill to prevent the possibility of any water washing into the spill as a result of a rain storm. The incident area has been constantly monitored by Emergency Services personnel to prevent access of humans or animals. Of the two containers, one was fully salvaged without loss of product and the second container had more than half of its product also salvaged without loss to the ground.

A control measure used to minimise HCN fuming from the pond during the recovery included addition of small amounts of liquid caustic soda to the pond to ensure pH remained alkaline.

A decontamination process using water to wash down all equipment leaving the site was used to ensure no contamination was taken away from the scene. All decontamination water used was confined to the already contaminated pond. Sandbagging and earthen bunds were used to prevent any possible spread of liquid from the containment area also.

The main rectification/clean up method for the area involved extraction of the contaminated soil and water for disposal at operating and closed mine sites. All usable product, heavily contaminated soil and liquor from the pond will be disposed of at the operating Union Reef Mine near Pine Creek. Orica personnel will attend the Union Reef mine site to ensure proper risk assessments prior to disposal of the waste into the tailings system. Lightly contaminated soil will be disposed of in the open cut section of the closed Warrego mine near Tennant Creek. This disposal will be done with the approval of the Mines Department of the Northern Territory Government and the Warrego Mine. These approvals have already been obtained. Peter Bannister from the Northern Territory EPA attended the site along with Rod Waldron (Orica Cyanide Plant Operations Manager), Allan McGregor (Orica Cyanide Plant SH&E Manager) and the Warrego Mine Manager to confirm no further environmental damage could occur as a result of the disposal at the closed mine. Agreement was reached between the four personnel that no additional harm could occur from this disposal.

Once contamination is removed from the incident scene, testing will be conducted to confirm the area involved is decontaminated and that no long-term environmental harm is possible. The area will then be remediated in conjunction with the Main Roads Department of the Northern Territory to restore the area similar to its original condition. This will involve road repairs and reconstruction of the appropriate waterway.