RESPONSE JUSTIFICATION DOCUMENT POOL DOCTOR/BEAVER ALKALI PRODUCTS SITE ROCHESTER BOROUGH BEAVER COUNTY SOUTHWEST REGION

## **DEP APPROVAL**

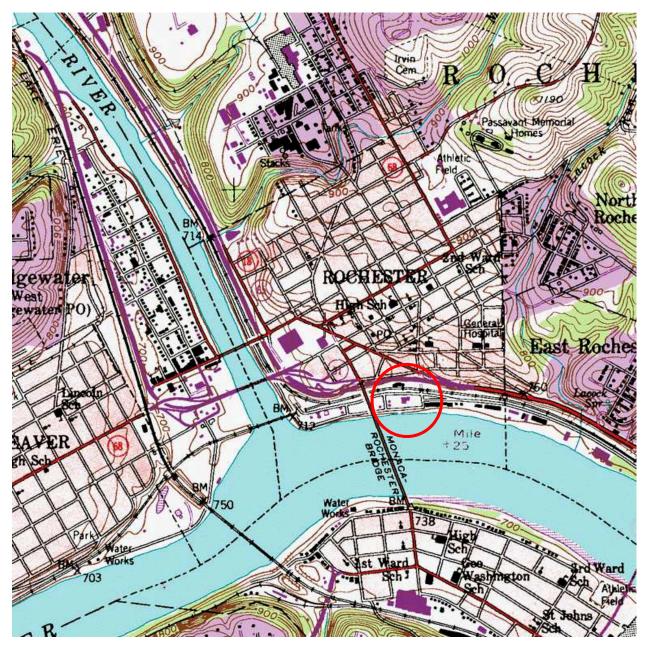
Based on the facts and findings outlined in this Response Justification Document, further investigation or response action is deemed appropriate, pursuant to Section 501(a) of the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act.

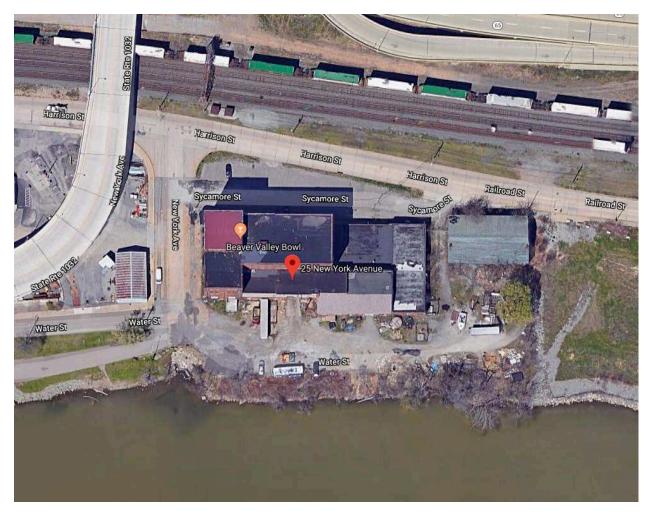
Environmental Program Manager PA Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Cleanup Program Southwest Regional Office

Date

## **SUMMARY OF FACTS**

This Response Justification Document addresses the Pool Doctor/Beaver Alkali Products ("Site") located at one Brewery Place, 25 New York Ave. (more specifically parcel # 49-001-1909.000) in the Borough of Rochester, Beaver County, Pennsylvania. The Site is immediately adjacent to the Ohio River, and residential areas of both Rochester and /East Rochester Boroughs. The Site consists of many drums of unknown liquids and solids that are corroded and leaking. These drums were associated with a swimming pool chemical business and laboratory that operated out of the buildings located on the above referenced parcel. Currently, the buildings are in a state of dilapidation and disrepair. The roofs of two buildings where the drums are located, are collapsing along with part of a wall in one of the buildings.







Strong odors, from the chemicals, can be encountered within 30 feet of the building. Access to the buildings is unrestricted. The Pool Doctor/Beaver Alkali Products Company is no longer in business. No samples of the waste have been taken because the building is unsafe to enter. Without analysis of the contents of the drums and spilled material, it is difficult to determine the quantity or toxicity of the material in the buildings.

The threat from the Site to human health or welfare is the direct contact of the contamination to persons entering the area where the leaking drums are located and encountering the waste material that has leaked from the drums. There is indication that trespassers have entered the buildings. One of the garage doors in the back of the building is open or missing and drums have been moved around inside the building. Many windows have been broken and the front door of the laboratory has been kicked in. There is a potential threat of inhalation of toxic fumes to the surrounding community and Fire Fighters in the event of a fire occurring at the Site. The potential for a fire is high due to the condition of the buildings and the age of the buildings. Members of the Rochester Fire Department have spoken with DEP Staff about the Fire Department's concern to the surrounding community and to members of their Department if a fire should break out in one of these buildings involving the drums of chemicals inside.

The current and/or potential threats that adversely affect the environment is the ongoing release of waste materials due to the conditions of the buildings. The collapsed roofs allow rain and snow to enter the buildings causing release of the waste materials into the surrounding soils and potentially the Ohio River.



Drums and containers lying outside of Pool Doctor Building



Pool Doctor building showing unrestricted access and drums of Solids in garage doorway



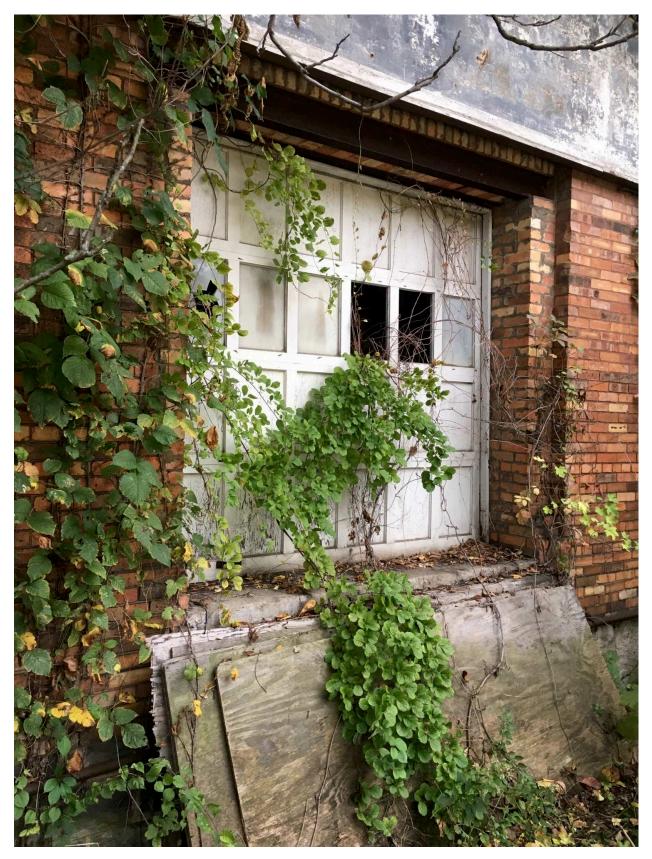
Laboratory part of Pool Doctor business, this area has a collapsed roof.



Sign on front of building listing various chemicals stored and sold by the Pool Doctor business



Sign on entrance to Pool Doctor Laboratory



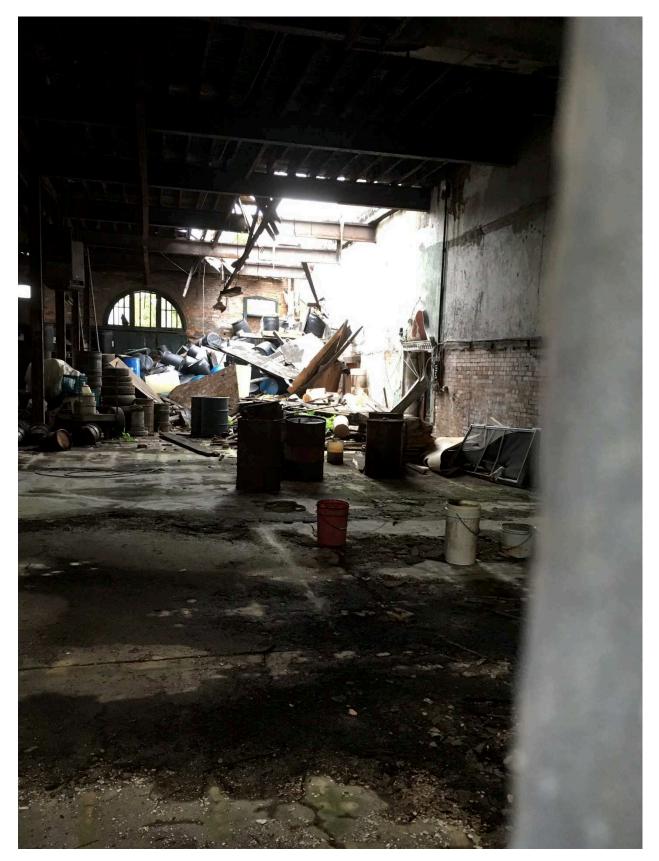
Garage door on Pool Doctor building



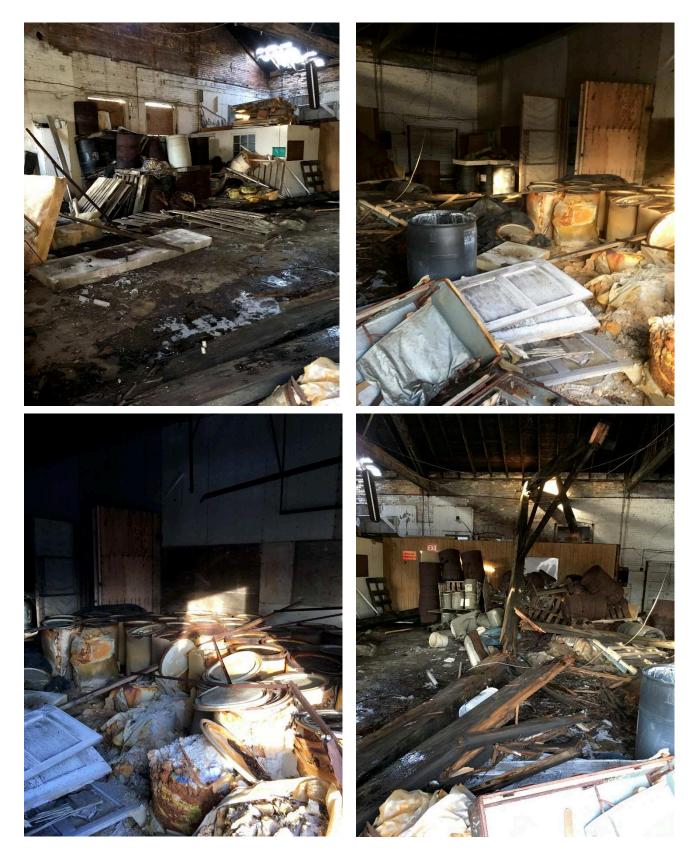
Missing door and drums sitting at the entrance. Strong odors are encountered at this photo spot.



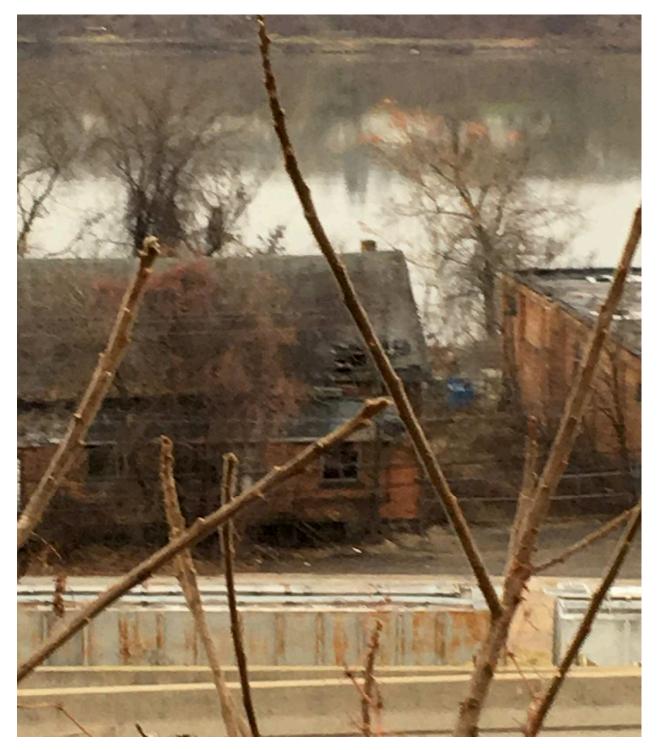
Front of Pool Doctor, painted sign says "Alkali Products"



Interior of Pool Doctor business showing collapsed roof onto Drums



Interior of Pool Doctor business showing drums, deteriorating building conditions, collapsed roof, and unidentified waste.



Hole in roof of Pool Doctor Building that contains several drums of waste



Collapsed roof of another Building that contains drums of waste

In summary, observations at the Site and knowledge of the types of chemicals possibly used by the owner/operator of the pool chemical business, show that there is a release or threat of release of hazardous substances to the public and to the environment because of the deteriorating containers and buildings that exist at this property.

## POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

The following "person" (s), as defined by Section 103 of HSCA, have been identified at this time as being potential responsible persons, pursuant tri Section 701 of HSCA, each potential responsible person, identified below is entitled to legal notice under Section 501(a) of HSCA.

Harold B. Davidson One Brewery Place 25 New York Ave. Rochester, PA 15074

## FINDINGS AND AUTHORITY TO ACT

The Department has determined that potentially hazardous substances as defined by the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act have been, or could be, released from the Pool Doctor/Beaver Alkali Products Site. Observations of the Site indicate conditions that pose a threat to human health and the environment. Based on these findings, the Department has determined that further investigation and response is appropriate.