

POLREP 02

WRG4 Vermiculite Assessment

WR Grace/Zonolite Co. Ellwood City Facility

12<sup>th</sup> and Factory Street

Ellwood City, Lawrence County, PA 16117

Latitude: 40° 51'34.44" N; Longitude: 80° 18'0.03"W (revised)

Event: Removal Assessment

Attn: EPA Region III RRC and 3HS32 Section Chief

I. SITUATION (as of October 30, 2002)

- A. Based on findings of asbestos-contaminated vermiculite at a WR Grace mine in Libby, Montana, an EPA agency-wide evaluation of past and operating vermiculite facilities in the United States which received ore from the Libby mine was initiated in 1999. The WR Grace/Zonolite Co. Ellwood City facility was reported to have received vermiculite ore from the Libby mine and operated as a expanding facility from 1954 to 1969.
- B. The Site is currently used by a trucking company for short term storage.
- C. A windshield assessment of the Site was conducted on April 3, 2000.
- D. A preliminary assessment was conducted at the Site in October of 2000. Two (2) bulk samples were collected and analytical results identified 2 % tremolite asbestos in one (1) of the bulk samples and non-detect in the second bulk sample.
- E. EPA conducted a second sampling event on May 22, 2002 based on the presence of tremolite in the samples collected at the facility and the reported volume of vermiculite ore previously processed at the facility.

II. ACTIVITIES

- A. Six (6) soil/bulk samples were collected from various locations around the property on May 22, 2002. Samples were analyzed by TEM analysis. One sample (WRG4-SS6) was identified as containing protocol chrysotile asbestos, excluded asbestos structures and non-regulated amphiboles also termed "Libby Amphiboles". Four additional samples were also identified as containing the Libby amphiboles.
- B. ATSDR conducted a site visit on August 29, 2002 to review existing data in support of their public health evaluation of the Site. OSC Carlson and ATSDR agreed that PLM analysis of the six soil/bulk samples collected in May 2002 would be warranted in addition to the TEM analysis.
- C. OSC Carlson and ATSDR also agreed that air sampling data would be beneficial in evaluating the current conditions within the facility based on the former vermiculite processing operations.
- D. START was tasked to procure a laboratory through EPA CST to provide PLM analysis on the six soil/bulk samples per NIOSH Method 9002. DataChem Laboratories Inc. were selected to do the analysis under DAS case no. R31379.
- E. Site access was granted by Mr. Phil Berezniak, attorney for the current property owner to

- conduct air sampling.
- F. On October 17, 2002, OSC Carlson and START Wilcox met on site at 1000 hours and determined air sampling collection locations inside the former vermiculite expansion facility. One air sample was to be collected on the east end of the main storage area near the roll up doors. A second sample was to be collected near the southwest corner of the main storage area.
  - G. At 1030 hours, START began the air sampling. The samples were collected using a 0.45 micron cellulose ester filter connected by tygon tubing to a Dawson® hi-flow air pump. The pumps were calibrated using a Sensidyne hi-flow calibrator kit both prior to and after sampling. The air was agitated inside the building by opening one of the roll up doors and having a box fan blow air across the warehouse. The samples were collected at an approximate height of five feet to simulate the breathing zone. The flow rate used during the sampling was 20 liters of air per minute (LPM).
  - H. At 1530 hours, the air sampling was complete. Total time of sampling was five hours for a total air volume collected of 6,000 liters. START Wilcox demobilized from the Site.

### III. FUTURE ACTIONS

- A. START to await lab selection through EPA CST and ship air samples once notified.
- B. OSC will conduct review of PLM data from soil samples and TEM data from air samples upon receipt of analytical results.
- C. OSC will continue to coordinate with involved parties and determine what additional measures, if any, need to be taken at this Site.

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