

Letter Health Consultation

VALSPAR PAINT
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

AUGUST 14, 2008

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Division of Health Assessment and Consultation
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

Health Consultation: A Note of Explanation

An ATSDR health consultation is a verbal or written response from ATSDR to a specific request for information about health risks related to a specific site, a chemical release, or the presence of hazardous material. In order to prevent or mitigate exposures, a consultation may lead to specific actions, such as restricting use of or replacing water supplies; intensifying environmental sampling; restricting site access; or removing the contaminated material.

In addition, consultations may recommend additional public health actions, such as conducting health surveillance activities to evaluate exposure or trends in adverse health outcomes; conducting biological indicators of exposure studies to assess exposure; and providing health education for health care providers and community members. This concludes the health consultation process for this site, unless additional information is obtained by ATSDR which, in the Agency's opinion, indicates a need to revise or append the conclusions previously issued.

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LETTER HEALTH CONSULTATION

VALSPAR PAINT

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Prepared By:

Illinois Department of Public Health
Under Cooperative Agreement with the
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry



Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor

Damon T. Arnold, M.D., M.P.H., Director

525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001 • www.idph.state.il.us

May 16, 2008

Bruce Everetts
Illinois EPA Bureau of Land
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Bruce:

At the request of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) evaluated the current and historical data from the former Valspar Paint facility to determine if the site poses a public health hazard and requires further action.

Site History

The former Valspar Paint facility is about 4.5 acres in size and is located at 1330 South Kilbourn Avenue in Chicago, IL. Approximately 2,400 people currently live within a 0.25-mile radius of the site.

Operations began sometime around 1935 under the management of Armstrong Paint and Varnish Works, Inc. The ownership lasted until 1969 when the property was sold to Armstrong Chemcon, which sold the facility six months later to Anaheim Union Water Company. Anaheim Union Water Company sold the facility to Ms. Joanne M. Jennings in July 1971, who placed the property into a trust. The beneficiary of the trust, Mr. Howard Conant, leased the facility to the Valspar Paint Company until 1984.

During Valspar's operation of the facility, solvents, resins, oils and pigments were used during the production of latex and solvent-based paints. The liquid material used during the paint making process was stored in both aboveground and underground storage tanks. These tanks contained materials that included ignitable solids, lead wastes, spent halogenated solvents and corrosive materials.

A fire at the facility in 1982 destroyed 11 of the 44 separate structures located on the site. The plant ceased operations in 1984 and the property was donated to Goodwill Industries. When the site was inventoried, 328 aboveground and underground storage tanks were identified. Remediation actions began in 1985 and included the removal of lead dust and peeling lead-based paint, the cleaning of storage tanks, the cleaning of piping throughout the facility, and the removal of asbestos containing material.

In 1987, Illinois EPA inspected the facility and observed that work conducted during the 1985 remediation still was not complete. Five additional buildings were burned due to arson in 1990. In February 1991, the Valspar site was added to Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS). The site was placed on CERCLIS due to chemical substances associated with paints and varnishes located on the site and the potential for the surrounding population and trespassers to be exposed to site-related chemicals. At that time, the site had 33 structures, more than 30 aboveground storage tanks and at least 54 underground storage tanks. In November 1991, due to the continuing decline of the facility, Valspar, Goodwill, and Mr. Conant entered into a consent agreement to address the environmental hazards.

In March 1992, Illinois EPA completed a preliminary assessment of the site and recommended a screening site inspection due to the hazards the dilapidated buildings posed to neighbors and trespassers. In May 1993, 18 soil samples were collected from the site and surrounding properties. The samples indicated that contamination was present on the site and several tanks still contained hazardous materials. Elevated levels of lead, barium, chromium, ethyl benzene, toluene, xylenes, tetrachloroethene, various polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were found in on-site soil.

In March 1994, IDPH staff reviewed the results of the sampling data and concluded that an acute health hazard did not exist from exposure to site-related chemicals, but recommended restricted access to the site to prevent chronic exposure and injury from physical hazards at the site until remedial activities could be conducted.

The site fencing was improved and over the next few years, remedial cleanup activities were conducted, including removal of aboveground and underground storage tanks, removal of contaminated soil, and the installation of engineered barriers. In some cases, underground storage tanks were left in place if they did not contain hazardous material and were still intact. Engineered barriers were constructed to eliminate exposure to contaminated soil. In July 1998, the City of Chicago completed demolition of all structures, and later that year Illinois EPA issued the former Valspar Paint facility a No Further Remediation (NFR) letter. The NFR letter stated that future use of the property is restricted to industrial and commercial activities. The City of Chicago was designated to maintain the condition of engineered barriers at the site.

Site Visit

On December 28, 2007, IDPH staff visited the former Valspar Paint facility. The site is located in a mixed residential and industrial area of Chicago, IL. The property was accessed from Kilbourn Avenue and IDPH staff were able to drive onto and walk around the site. The surface of the property is mostly covered with gravel and concrete. A former railroad area was covered with asphalt. The property is sparsely vegetated and there are no structures currently located on the site. The east side of the site is fenced and railroad tracks border the site on the west. The site is bordered by industrial properties on the north and south.

On January 25, 2008, Illinois EPA staff visited the site and confirmed the conditions described above.

Exposure Evaluation

In the past, access to deteriorated buildings on the site posed a hazard to trespassers. These buildings have been demolished and subsequently no hazard currently exists.

Although some soil contamination is still present on the site, it is two feet below an engineered barrier making human exposure unlikely. Deed restrictions placed on the property will prevent future excavation of soil. No excavation can occur without an approved safety and health plan. The City of Chicago does not permit the use of groundwater for drinking purposes.

Conclusion

Remedial actions confirmed by Illinois EPA oversight have effectively eliminated physical hazards and exposure to site-related chemicals. IDPH concludes that the Valspar Paint facility poses no public health hazard at this time. IDPH concurs with the Illinois EPA recommendation that the site receive a "no further remedial action planned" designation.

If you have further site-related questions, please contact me at 217-782-5830.

Sincerely,



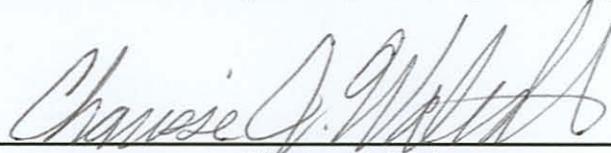
Ken Runkle
Environmental Toxicologist

References

1. Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. CERCLA Site Reassessment. February 14, 2008.
2. Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Letter regarding the Screening Site Inspection of Valspar Paints. January 6, 1994.
3. Illinois Department of Public Health. Memorandum Regarding Valspar Paints. March 9, 1994.

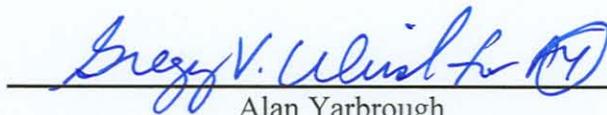
Certification

This Valspar Paint letter health consultation was prepared by the Illinois Department of Public Health under a cooperative agreement with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). It was completed in accordance with approved methodologies and procedures existing at the time the health consultation was initiated. Editorial review was completed by the Cooperative Agreement partner.



Charisse J. Walcott
Technical Project Officer, CAT, CAPEB, DHAC

The Division of Health Assessment and Consultation (DHAC), ATSDR, has reviewed this health consultation and concurs with its findings.



Alan Yarbrough
Team Lead, CAT, CAPEB, DHAC, ATSDR