

Letter Health Consultation

REED STREET SITE
SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

**Prepared by the
Michigan Department of Community Health**

FEBRUARY 09, 2010

Prepared under a Cooperative Agreement with the
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Division of Health Assessment and Consultation
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

Health Consultation: A Note of Explanation

A health consultation is a verbal or written response from ATSDR or ATSDR's Cooperative Agreement Partners 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 or ATSDR's Cooperative Agreement Partner which, in the Agency's opinion, indicates a need to revise or append the conclusions previously issued.

You May Contact ATSDR Toll Free at
1-800-CDC-INFO

or

Visit our Home Page at: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov>

LETTER HEALTH CONSULTATION

REED STREET SITE

SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

Prepared By:

Michigan Department of Community Health
Under Cooperative Agreement with
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Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JANET OLSZEWSKI
DIRECTOR

February 1, 2010

Sue Kaelber-Matlock, Senior Geologist
Remediation and Redevelopment Division
Department of Natural Resources and Environment
401 Ketchum Street
Bay City, Michigan 48708

Dear Sue:

I have reviewed the analytical data you provided me for oil in a sump pit in a residence on Reed Street in Saginaw, Michigan, and concluded that this situation is not expected to cause harm to people living at this home. I recommend that you continue efforts to determine the source of the oil and how best to address it to prevent potential future exposure or environmental degradation.

Laboratory analysis indicated that the following chemicals were detected in the oil:

- 810 parts per million (ppm) bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate
- 3 ppm 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene
- 0.9 ppm PCBs as Aroclor 1254
- 13 ppm aluminum
- 85 ppm iron
- 1.4 ppm titanium

The laboratory suggested that the oil may be weathered diesel or fuel oil. As you are aware, there are no Part 201 clean-up criteria that address direct contact with oil. This situation could be challenging to evaluate if exposure to the oil were likely. However, it is unlikely that people will come into direct contact with the oil, since the sump is covered and not in an area of the house used for living space. Therefore, the oil poses no health hazard from a direct-contact aspect.

The home is served by city water and does not have its own drinking water well. Therefore, the oil is not expected to enter the drinking-water system of the home and poses no health hazard from an ingestion aspect.

You had reported noticing odors when the sump was uncovered. You had also told me that the sump normally is covered with a plywood cover and that air in the sump pit is vented outdoors through flexible piping. It is unlikely that people will inhale vapors released by the oil, since the air in the sump is routed outside the home. Therefore, the oil poses no health hazard from an inhalation aspect and it is not necessary to conduct indoor air testing. For peace of mind, the homeowners should consider ensuring that the cover on the sump is adequately sealed so that vapors are not escaping into the basement.

Sue Kaelber-Matlock
MDNRE-RRD
February 1, 2010
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You had reported that a family member had asked whether using the fireplace in the home was safe, in regard to the chemicals in the oil. Because the vapors released by the oil are routed outside, I would not expect there to be a flash hazard nor any toxic by-products from the fire consuming any vapors. However, because wood fires are inherently dangerous and can produce carbon monoxide (CO), I recommend that the homeowners install smoke and CO detectors, if they have not done so already.

To prevent the possibility of future exposure or environmental degradation, I recommend that the source of the oil be determined and addressed. It is my understanding that you are planning on advancing some borings outside the home to investigate the possibility of a buried tank.

Please provide my contact information (bushcr@michigan.gov, 1-800-648-6942) to the homeowners, should they have any health- or exposure-related questions. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding any additional issues at this site.

Sincerely,

Christina Bush, Toxicologist
Toxicology and Response Section
Division of Environmental Health
Bureau of Epidemiology

CC: Saginaw County Health Department

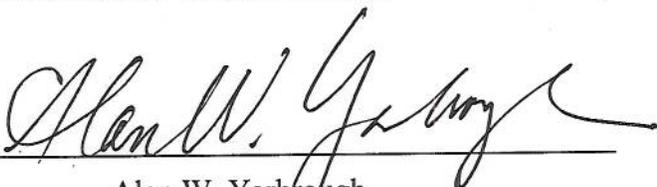
Certification

This Letter Health Consultation for Reed Street Pump site was prepared by the MDCH under a cooperative agreement with ATSDR. It is in accordance with approved methodology and procedures existing at the time the Letter Health Consultation were initiated. Editorial review was completed by the cooperative agreement partner.



for LCDR Trent LeCoultre
Technical Project Officer, CAT, CAPEB, DHAC, ATSDR

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



Alan W. Yarbrough
Lead, Cooperative Agreement Team, SPS, CAPEB, DHAC, ATSDR