

Letter Health Consultation

WILSON YARD REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

CHICAGO, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

**Prepared by the
Illinois Department of Public Health**

SEPTEMBER 22, 2009

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

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

LETTER HEALTH CONSULTATION

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Prepared By:

Illinois Department of Public Health
Division of Environmental Health
Under Cooperative Agreement with
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Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry



Pat Quinn, Governor
Damon T. Arnold, M.D., M.P.H., Director

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

#707080801H

September 14, 2009

Charisse Walcott
ATSDR - DHAC
1600 Clifton Road, NE
Mailstop F-58
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Charisse:

At the request of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) evaluated site-related information and conducted a site visit of the Wilson Yard redevelopment project in Chicago, Illinois. The Uptown Neighborhood Council (UNC), a local not-for-profit organization, had petitioned ATSDR to conduct a public health assessment of Wilson Yard.

Site Background

Wilson Yard, located at 1036 West Montrose Avenue in Chicago, is a former Chicago Transit Authority maintenance facility that is undergoing redevelopment. Data suggest that the soil on the approximately 5-acre property contained elevated levels of lead, arsenic, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) at various locations and at various depths.

The UNC petition to ATSDR alleged that workers were not properly wetting the soil and trucks were hauling loads of soil from the site without proper covering. The health concern was that nearby residents and workers would be exposed to hazardous substances in the dust coming from the site and the trucks.

Recent Activities

IDPH staff visited the site on July 29, 2009. A very large, multi-story building was being built and would cover much of the property. One sign on the property stated that Walsh Construction was erecting the building. Another sign stated that commercial space was available and that the building would be opening in 2010.

IDPH staff observed that earth moving had ceased and that the exterior shell of the building was mostly complete on the southern side along Montrose Avenue. Building construction was proceeding northward. A large crane was hoisting girders into place. The entire footprint of the building appeared to be in place and would be 5 to 6 stories tall upon completion.

The nearest homes are in 3-story and 6-story apartment/condo buildings south of the property across Montrose Avenue. Exposure to dust generated by soil excavation and hauling activities was no longer occurring.

Data Evaluation

IDPH compared the results of each environmental sample with the appropriate ATSDR screening comparison value used to select chemicals for further evaluation for carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic health effects. Additionally, IDPH used state and area background soil concentrations and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency residential remediation objectives for comparison purposes.

A few of the individual soil sample results from various depths exceeded screening comparison values; however, the *average* levels of lead, arsenic and PAHs in the samples were less than comparison values or cleanup objectives.

Chemical	Maximum Level Detected (in mg/kg)	Average Level Detected (in mg/kg)	Average Level in Background Soil in IL Metro Areas (in mg/kg)	Comparison Value (in mg/kg)
Lead	10,000	242	71	400 (IEPA)
Arsenic	91	10	7.4	20 (EMEG-C)
PAHs [B(a)P]	5.8	0.26	1.3	0.1 (CREG)

PAHs [B(a)P] = polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons as benzo(a)pyrene
 mg/kg = milligrams of chemical per kilogram of soil
 IEPA = Illinois Environmental Protection Agency residential soil cleanup objective
 EMEG-C = environmental media evaluation guide for a child
 CREG = cancer risk evaluation guide

Since no one had direct access to on-site soil during excavation and hauling activities, IDPH evaluated the potential exposure from dust released during these activities. This dust would have been of various compositions over time, so we can assume that the average level of chemicals in the soil samples, which are not significantly elevated compared to background or residential cleanup levels, would be representative of the average level of chemicals in the dust. Based on this assumption, nearby residents would not have been exposed to levels of lead, arsenic, and PAHs that would cause adverse health effects.

Based on the current status of the property redevelopment, soil excavation and hauling activities are no longer occurring.

Conclusion

IDPH concludes that past exposure via breathing airborne dust from the Wilson Yard redevelopment project would not be expected to harm people’s health. In the recent past, area residents may have been exposed to dust that consisted of soils being excavated and hauled from Wilson Yard; however, soil sample results suggest that the levels of chemicals in the dust were not at levels that would cause adverse health effects. Soil excavation and hauling activities are no

longer occurring, so the dust from the site currently would not be expected to harm people's health.

Recommendations

IDPH recommends that if further soil excavation were to take place, dust suppression measures should be taken to minimize the nuisance to nearby residents.

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

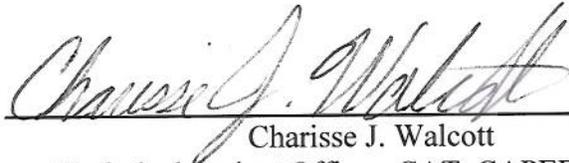
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Runkle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "K".

Ken Runkle
Environmental Toxicologist

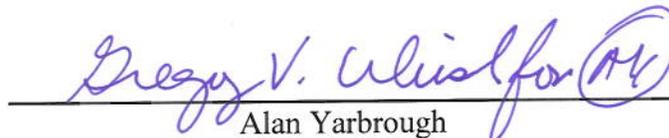
Certification

This Wilson Yard 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