


MEMORANDUM

Date: January 7, 2009

To: Interested Parties, Repositories

From: Sandra L. Treccani 

RE: Responsiveness Summary for the Washington State Penitentiary Agreed Order

This Responsiveness Summary addresses comments received by the Department of Ecology regarding the Draft Agreed Order for the Washington State Penitentiary Site in Spokane, WA. Three written comments were received as part of the thirty-day public notice and opportunity to comment period. No changes will be made to the Draft Agreed Order as a result of the comments received. Copies of the comments are attached.

Comment 1 – letter from Donald Wright, former inmate at the Washington State Penitentiary:

The comment letter brings up several issues which are summarized below:

- *The use and handling of chemicals in the sign shop, particularly:*
 - *Informing Ecology about the types and quantities of chemicals used in the shop*
 - *Providing details about the “closed loop” chemical recycling system used in the sign shop and the solvent dripping that occurs when signs are moved from one area to another*
 - *Asking questions about the ultimate destination of solvents that drip onto the floor and are washed into the 4” drain*
- *Proper protection from chemical exposure for inmate workers and penitentiary employees in the sign shop, both from dermal contact and inhalation of vapors*
- *Ensuring that inmates and residents are provided safe, clean drinking water, and that air, soil, and water resources in the area are not being contaminated by the Penitentiary*

Response 1:

Ecology appreciates the information about the types of chemicals that are used in the sign shop, and also the recycling systems that are in place. Our investigation plans will include the types of chemicals that are mentioned, and our intention is to investigate the soil and water surrounding areas like the sign shop where chemicals have historically been used.

We researched the 4” drain that was mentioned, and our Water Quality program (which oversees anything entering drains) verified that this drain goes to the city wastewater treatment plant for treatment. The wastewater treatment plant is aware of what is entering its facility from the Penitentiary and is capable of treating it. The Penitentiary is required to sample its combined discharge to the treatment plant under a permit. Current procedures in the sign shop are that signs treated with solvent are left in the ventilated

area for several minutes to allow as much solvent to drip into the “recycling” system as possible. This should minimize the amount of solvent that enters the floor drain when signs are moved away from the recycling system.

Ecology understands that various forms of personal protective equipment (such as respirators and gloves) are used in the sign shop. However, Ecology does not have any involvement with or oversight of those programs. We would direct inquiries to the Washington State Penitentiary Safety Officer or the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries.

All inmates and employees at the Penitentiary receive their drinking water from the city of Walla Walla. This water is primarily from surface sources, such as Mill Creek, but is supplemented with groundwater from wells on the east side of town. These wells are in the deeper aquifer and are not in the area of the Penitentiary. Also, the City tests the water supply at least annually for the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which are the chemicals in groundwater near the Penitentiary. No VOCs have been found in the city water supply, which means that inmates and Penitentiary employees are drinking clean, safe water. Regarding the local air, soil, and water resources, the purpose of our upcoming work is to investigate these resources to determine whether or not they are contaminated. The nature of these VOCs (age, suspected source) means that we do not expect air to be impacted. Our investigation will focus primarily on soil and groundwater, and the results of our investigation will be made available to the public.

Comment 2 – email from Carol Wies:

This comment inquires about our investigation plans, and whether or not groundwater wells will be installed in areas downgradient of the “facility.”

Response 2:

Ecology is unsure whether the commenter is referring to the Sudbury Road Landfill or the Penitentiary as the “facility.” Our investigation plans do include the installation of groundwater monitoring wells both up and down gradient of the Penitentiary. If the commenter is referring to the Sudbury Road Landfill, then our investigation will not be focusing in that area. The reason is because the Landfill is already under Ecology oversight as an active landfill, and has had both upgradient and downgradient wells installed for over 15 years. These wells are regularly sampled and the data is available either through the City of Walla Walla or Ecology’s Solid Waste Program in Spokane.

Comment 3 – email from Larry Young:

This comment inquires about the safety of the drinking water provided to inmates and Penitentiary employees.

Response 3:

Refer to the fourth paragraph of the response to Comment 1. Ecology is not aware of any directives for Penitentiary employees to bring their own water from home. The drinking water is safe and we have communicated that to employees and inmates.

URGENT!

To: Sandra Treccani
Wa. Dept. of Ecology
4601 Norht Monroe
Spokane Wa
99205-1295

RECEIVED
DEC 17 2008
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

From: Donald Wright #265472
Airway Heights Corr. Ctr.
P.O.Box 2049
Airway Heights Wa.
99001-2049

Dear Ms. Treccani,

This letter is to give additional subject matter for your committee to consider.

I have first hand knowlege of past and presumably present **CHEMICAL DUMPING** at the Correctional Industries Sign Shop located in the Walla Walla prison @ 1313 13th Walla Walla.

In Oct of 2005 I was brutally attacked for my outspoken views about this dumping and the lack of proper ventilation and proper respirators for employees working in the Industries Bldg.

During the months of Sept/Oct 2005, I repetitly requested the MSDS (Material Safty Data Sheets) from my supervisors and the Safty officer. The following Chemicals are routinely used by the sign shop:

BRAND	USE
3M Screen Ink (Paint)	Color for signs
3M Clear Coat	as a protectant and top coat
3M Clear Hardener (DX 80)	as a Catalyst for urathane
Unk Screen burner souldtion	a Photochemaly reactive product
Unk Souldtion remover	a solvent
Unk all purpose Solvent	Having properties of Xylene, Toulene, Benzine

These Chemical compounds are used in the process of applieng Ink(paint) to signs/decals being sold by D.O.C. Industries to a great many state agencies and other municipal entities.

My family, after the attack to my person contacted the Govenors office to complain of the retaliation by D.O.C employees and to complain of the toxic working conditions and polloution were referred to Mr Ruben Cedeno of D.O.C... Mr. Cedeno personally wrote me a letter

seeking additional information about the Who, What, When, and Where of my concerns, I did reply to his letter and clearly stated my concerns and what chemicals and locations that I felt were in question.

~~He~~
My answer from him was that I was mistaken and there was no problem.

He spoke of a "Closed Loop" system that was recently installed to collect these chemicals..... I will point out to you and your committee that this closed loop system is utilized for the **Recycleing** aspect of the sign shop and is not the 4" drain that I speak of in my complaints that is located some 40-50 feet from this "Closed Loop" system...

To clarify the charge of "Dumping", the process of silkscreening requires that the used ink and screen be cleaned off prior to the next order... These liquids are first swabbed off with a solvent saturated rag and wiped off into this recycling area.. then this dripping wet (w/solvent, Ink) screen is walked 40 feet to another work station to be rinsed off with a pressure washer utilizing water.

This water, ink, solvent is simply rinsed down a 4" sewer type drain in the floor?

I assert that this 4" Drain pipe either is a side sewer or leads back to the City of Walla Walla's Sewer treatment plant?

At any rate the chemicals in this slosh that is rinsed down the 4" drain is either polluting the surface groundwater/soil or is being sent to town to pollute what ever it comes in to contact with post treatment?

I note the high rate of bowel type cancers in both the Prison and the Communities of Walla Walla and College Place?

This letter makes note of the liquid forms of pollution, but the invisible toxic **Airborn V.O.C's** are Off the Chart whenever there is an operation of more than a few signs (Silk Screening) There was no exhaust ventilation save 1 directly over the Mechanical screen machine, since most orders are "Hand Done" this exhaust fan is rarely effective, and even so is not filtered and ALL V.O.C.'s go directly airborne throughout the work area. The other 100+ employees are exposed to these invisible chemicals.

I have little to gain by once again attempting to bring these concerns to light, I may be attacked again, I may have my room routinely searched and research stolen (The correspondence between Mr. Cedeno & I was stolen?)

I have been held in solitary confinement for close to 60 days at a time, I have been denied medical attention when I couldnt breath from my Facial bones being broken, I have had to resort to a "Hunger strike" to get medical attention, I have been placed at the opposite side of the state in retaliation to make a hardship on my family to visit me.. Yet I still feel that my voice will be heard and that the Inmates and Govt employees working at the Industries shop will get the needed Protective gear and Proper ventilation, and that the Inmates, Govt Employees working at the prison will have "Clean "drinking water and that the surrounding residents can be assured that the largest employer in thier community is not knowingly **POISONING** them and thier AIR, SOIL, WATER?

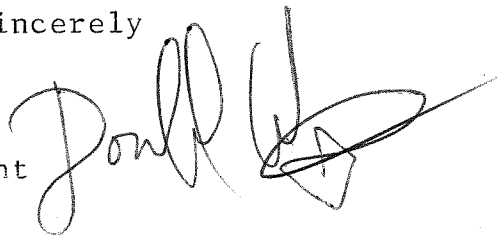
I have commenced a lawsuit in Western District Court to address my ongoing medical health problems form the attack and I mention the MSDS and the supervisors who sent the "Torpedo" to shut me up... the Case # is WDC 1719-JCC-JPD

I am now withdrawling this case and will file this action in your local court in Walla Walla County

You may respond to this and I will provide copies of Affidavits and other research pertaining to this subject.

Most Sincerely

Donald Wright



*I NOTE THAT
THERE ARE DELIVERIES
OF 55 GAL DRUMS OF Solvent
BIWEEKLY,
THIS SOLVENT EITHER
BECOMES AIR BORN OR
IS WASHED DOWN THE DRAIN?*

c.file

Chairperson Walla Walla Housing Authority
Earthfirst

Treccani, Sandra (ECY)

From: Wies, Carol A SPA [Carol.A.Wies@usace.army.mil]
Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2008 7:24 AM
To: Treccani, Sandra (ECY)
Subject: Comments to WA State Penitentiary Scope of Work

Fact sheet indicates that contaminants of concern were detected upgradient of the landfill site.

Agreed Order No. 6200 - Finding of Fact, paragraph C states: PCE & TCE documented in wells hydraulically upgradient of Sudbury Rd Landfill.

Page 3 of the scope requires installation of new monitoring wells upgradient of the facility. In this reviewer's opinion the investigation of groundwater should also be looking for contamination downgradient?

Please add me to mailing list.

Carol Wies Brewer
P.O. Box 94832
Albuquerque, NM 87199

Treccani, Sandra (ECY)

From: larry young [phs55cruise@povn.com]
Sent: Monday, November 24, 2008 1:01 PM
To: Treccani, Sandra (ECY)
Subject: Walla Walla prison water

This is an extensive process and it is going to take a long time - in the meantime, the staff at the facility has been told to bring their own water. Unfortunately, the inmates do not have that option; their commissary does not make water available to them. They shower in polluted water, wash their clothes in it and drink it every day. As wards of the state, they should be provided with clean water, at least for drinking, for the duration of this process.

How much pressure will it take to get this done?

Lynda Young lynlarry@juno.com 509-447-0808