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Agency Secretary
Cal/EPA

Department of Toxic Substances Control

700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200
Berkeley, California 94710-2721



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

August 19, 2005

Mr. Greg Haett
Associate Director - Environmental Protection
Environment, Health & Safety
University of California
317 University Hall #1150
Berkeley, CA 94720-1150

Dear Mr. Haett:

On June 23, 2005, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) was informed by a community member that a "purple ooze" was seeping from the grassy area in front of Building 484 at the University of California Richmond Field Station, located at 1301 S. 46th Street, Richmond. On June 30, 2005, DTSC staff collected two samples (RFS-B484-01 and RFS-B484-02) from saturated soils to the west of the grassy area. The samples were analyzed by DTSC's Hazardous Materials Laboratory (HML) for pH, metals (including mercury), and petroleum hydrocarbons as motor oil and diesel. The analytical results were as follows:

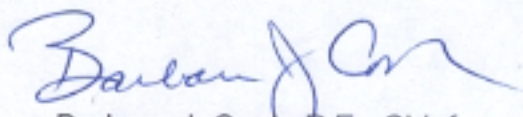
	RFS-B484-01	RFS-B484-02
Diesel	54 mg/kg	<250 mg/kg
Arsenic	2.36 mg/kg	4.24 mg/kg
Barium	73.0 mg/kg	148 mg/kg
Beryllium	<0.01 mg/kg	<0.01 mg/kg
Cadmium	2.94 mg/kg	4.83 mg/kg
Chromium	16.1 mg/kg	37.1 mg/kg
Cobalt	9.42 mg/kg	13.5 mg/kg
Copper	87.7 mg/kg	86.0 mg/kg
Lead	28.5 mg/kg	32.2 mg/kg
Mercury	2.9 mg/kg	0.8 mg/kg
Molybdenum	0.659 mg/kg	2.30 mg/kg
Nickel	16.8 mg/kg	37.6 mg/kg
Selenium	<0.04 mg/kg	<0.04 mg/kg
Thallium	<0.02 mg/kg	0.398 mg/kg
Vanadium	28.5 mg/kg	34.4 mg/kg
Zinc	93.2 mg/kg	88.3 mg/kg
pH	7.20	6.41

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A copy of the sampling report and laboratory data sheets is enclosed with this letter. The concentrations of all compounds were found to be below the residential California Human Health Screening Levels (CHHSLs) or consistent with typical background concentrations for the area. Therefore, DTSC does not plan on investigating this area further unless new information becomes available that may warrant additional investigation.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the report, please call me at (510) 540-3843 or Lynn Nakashima of my staff at (510) 540-3839.

Sincerely,



Barbara J. Cook, P.E., Chief
Northern California – Coastal Cleanup
Operations Branch

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Wendel Brunner
Public Health Director
Contra Costa County Health Services Department
597 Center Avenue, Suite 200
Martinez, CA 94553

Ms. Joan Lichterman
Systemwide Health & Safety Director
University Professional and Technical Employees
P.O. Box 4443
Berkeley, CA 94704

Sampling Report

Site Location: UC Richmond Field Station
1301 S. 46th Street, Richmond 94804
Contra Costa County

Date Sampled: June 30, 2005

Description of Area: The sampled area is to the west of a grassy area located in front of Building 484. Adjacent to the grassy area is an exposed area with gravel on top that is next to Egret Way. The grassy area is divided into two equal areas by a walkway leading up to Building 484. A utility box and storm grate were observed next to the southern grassy area and a water utility box and storm drain grate was observed next to the northern grassy area. Near both utility boxes and drain grate, standing water was observed. A sheen on the water near the southern utility box was observed, and the soils in the same area appeared to have an orange color. The water appears to be run-off from watering the lawn as the lawn was wet.

Sample Collection: Two soil samples, RFS-B484-01 and RFS-B484-02 were collected from the following locations:

RFS-B484-01 - Adjacent to the southern utility box. The soil was saturated, rocky on top and clayey beneath. The soil was gray and no discoloration was noted. The sample was collected at approximately 10:30 am.

RFS-B484-02- Approximately 10 feet west of the water utility box, and adjacent to the grass. The soil was saturated, rocky on top and clayey beneath. The soil was gray and no discoloration was noted. The sample was collected at approximately 10:40 am.

The samples were collected in 250-ml glass jars using plastic trowels. The sample containers were put into individual zip-lock bags and placed into a cooler container ice. The samples were immediately transported and delivered to DTSC's Berkeley Hazardous Materials Laboratory under chain-of-custody (see attached).

The sample analysis request form is attached and requests analysis for pH, metals including mercury, diesel and motor oil.