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January 4, 1990

Mr. A..R. Hanke
Site Investigation and Support Branch
Waste Management Division
Environmental Protection Agency
345 Courtland Street, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30365

Date: 1/25/90
Site Disposition: SSI PA IV
EPA Project Manager: RM

Subject: Screening Site Inspection - Phase I #2875
Singer Company - Furniture Division
Chocowinity, Beaufort County, North Carolina
EPA ID No. NCD072012354
TDD No. F4-8909-104

Dear Mr. Hanke:

FIT 4 conducted a Screening Site Inspection at the Singer Company Furniture Division at the Washington plant located on State Road 1175 in Chocowinity, Beaufort County, North Carolina. Phase I included a review of EPA and State file material, completion of a target survey, and a offsite reconnaissance of the facility and the surrounding area.

The Singer Company facility has been in operation since 1950, and manufactures furniture goods, such as bedroom, dining room and living room items (Ref. 1). This process involves machining, sanding, assembly and finishing. Liquid and solid hazardous waste consists of paint, paint thinners, spent solvents, and sanding and spray booth cleanup material. In 1983, the liquid waste was pumped from 55 gallon drums into a tanker truck by Oldover Corporation of Cascade, Virginia(Ref. 2). From 1950-1976 waste was shipped to the Singer Company landfill (previously a city and county landfill location) in Lenoir, North Carolina (Ref. 2). Waste quantity during that period was estimated at 465 tons (Ref. 3). No waste was reportedly disposed at the facility, although numerous drums were being stored in contained and uncontained areas during the reconnaissance (Refs. 3, 4). Additionally, a 1983 RCRA inspection indicated some leaking and rusty containers (Ref. 2). Two stormwater impoundments were also observed onsite during the reconnaissance (Ref. 4). The facility had submitted a RCRA Part A application, however their status was changed to a small quantity generator on January 20, 1982 (Refs. 1, 5). They are currently classified as a generator (Ref. 6).

The facility is in the Atlantic Coastal Plain hydrogeologic regime which consists of a wedge-shaped sequence of stratified gravel, sand, silt, clay, and limestone in various combinations deposited on a crystalline basement surface (Ref. 7, p. 26). The deepest aquifer used in the area is the Cretaceous Lower Sand Unit comprised of the Black Creek and Tuscaloosa stratigraphic units located at a depth of 430 feet below land surface (bls) (Ref. 7, pp. 62, 63). Other aquifers between this aquifer and the surface are the Cretaceous Upper Sand Unit comprised of the lower one-third to one-half of the Peedee stratigraphic unit located at a depth of 200 feet bls, the Castle Hayne Unit located at a depth of 50 feet bls, and the water table unit located at the land surface (Ref. 7, pp. 41-54). The clay and silt

of the Yorktown Formation, at a depth of 25 feet bls, represents the layer of lowest hydraulic conductivity between the surface and deeper aquifers. These types of sediments have been shown to have hydraulic conductivity values ranging from 1×10^{-5} to 1×10^{-7} cm/sec (Ref. 7, pp. 46, 53; 8, p. 29). The water table in this area is located at 21 feet bls (Ref. 9, p. 11). The net annual rainfall for the area is 9 inches and the 1-year, 24-hour rainfall is 3.5 inches (Ref. 10, pp. 37, 63; 11, p. 93).

Drinking water in the area is provided by private wells and public water systems. There are about 360 private wells within a 3-mile radius of the site, and the closest is located about 100 feet south of the site (Ref. 12). Public water around Chocowinity is provided by the town, which has two wells 80-90 feet deep and serves 1200 people (Ref. 13). The closest is 2000 feet south of the facility. About 150 residents in the Whichard's Beach area on Chocowinity Bay are served by Whichard's Beach Water System, which has two wells about 150 feet deep (Ref. 14). These are located outside the 4-mile radius. About 150 private wells are present between the 3-4 mile radius (Ref. 12). Private well depths in the county range from 15-250 feet (Ref. 14).

Surface water from the site can enter a small stream about 1000 feet to the west which drains to the Pamlico River about 2 miles to the north. The river near Washington is used for recreational fishing, however commercial fishing occurs within 15 miles downstream (Ref. 15). A large expanse of cypress wetlands are located about 1 mile north in the area bordering the Pamlico River (Ref. 12). Several endangered and threatened species are also found in Beaufort County (Ref. 16).

The facility is located in a mixed land use area adjacent to the town. About 100 homes and the Chocowinity High School are located within a 1-mile radius (Ref. 12). The closest residence is located about 100 feet from the facility. Access to the facility is restricted by a fence (Ref. 4).

Based upon the above discussion and the enclosures, a Screening Site Inspection, Phase II is recommended on a medium priority basis. Should you have any questions, please contact me at NUS Corporation.

Very truly yours,

Bob Donaghue

Bob Donaghue
Project Manager

Approved:

Greg Schank

BD/jec

cc: Robert Morris

REFERENCES

1. Potential Hazardous Waste Site Preliminary Assessment (EPA Form 2070-12) for Singer Company-Furniture Division. Filed by O.W. Strickland, Division of Health Services, Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Branch, March 12, 1984.

2. Fred J. Woods, DHS, Eastern Regional Office, February 7, 1983 correspondence to O.W. Strickland, Head Solid & Hazardous Waste Management Branch. Subject: RCRA Inspection Report.

3. Dick McDonald, Safety Engineering manager, Singer Furniture, February 27, 1984 correspondence to Lee Crosby, Chemist, North Carolina Department of Human resources. Subject: CERCLA Notification.

4. NUS Corporation Field Logbook No. F4-1770 for Singer Company - Furniture Division, TDD No. F4-8909-104. Documentation of facility reconnaissance, November 2, 1989.

5. O.W. Strickland, Solid and Hazardous Waste Management, January 20, 1982 correspondence to Singer Furniture. Subject: RCRA status.

6. North Carolina Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Alphabetic List of Hazardous Waste Facilities Report date August 10, 1989.

7. James Narkunas, 1980, "Groundwater Evaluation in the Central Coastal Plain of North Carolina," Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

8. R. Allen Freeze and John A. Cherry, "Groundwater," (Englewood Clifs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1979).

9. E.O. Floyd and A.T. Long, Well Records and Other Basic Groundwater Data, Craven County, North Carolina" North Carolina Department of Water and Air Resources, Groundwater Circular 14.

10. U.S. Department of Commerce, "Climatic Atlas of the United States," (Washington, D.C.: GPO, June 1968) Reprint: 1983, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

11. U.S. Department of Commerce, "Rainfall Frequency Atlas of the United States," Technical Paper No. 40, (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1963, p. 93).

12. U.S. Geological Survey, 7.5 minute series Topographic Quadrangle Maps of North Carolina: Hackney, Photorevised 1983; Washington, Photorevised 1983; Grimesland, 1979; and Wilmar, 1983. Scale 1:24,000.

13. Charles Williamson, Mayor of Chocowinity, October 19, 1989 telephone conversation with Bob Donaghue, NUS Corporation. Subject: Chocowinity drinking water.

14. Bob O'Neil, Beaufort County Environmental Health, October 19, 1989 telephone conversation with Bob Donaghue, NUS Corporation. Subject: Water Information for Beaufort County.

15. B.J. Copeland, R.G. Hodson, and S.R. Riggs, 1984, The Ecology of the Pamlico River, North Carolina: An Estuarine Profile. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. PB85-155703.

16. North Carolina Natural Heritage Program Element List, Beaufort County, June 21, 1989. Subject: Endangered Species.