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C-586-7-0-33

July 5, 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: 10/31/90  
 Site Disposition: NFRAP  
 EPA Project Manager: RM

Subject: Screening Site Inspection, Phase I  
 Singer Company Furniture Division  
 Sanford, Lee County, North Carolina  
 EPA ID No. NCD053490462  
 TDD No. F4-8911-68

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#2803

Dear Mr. Hanke:

FIT 4 conducted a Phase I Screening Site Inspection at Singer Co. Furniture Division in Sanford, Lee County, North Carolina. This assessment included a review of EPA and state file material, completion of a target survey and an offsite reconnaissance of the facility and surrounding area.

Singer Co. Furniture Division is located off U.S. Highway 1 on, Charlotte Avenue. The facility is located in an urban/commercial area. The company is privately owned (Ref. 1).

Singer Co. Furniture Division began operations in 1938 (Refs. 1, 2). Currently the facility is used as a warehouse to store clothing (Ref. 2, p. 7). The facility was a furniture manufacturer that generated waste lacquer thinners, or solvents. The facility also generated solid paint residue from the walls of paint booths. A total of 80,000 lbs. of waste was disposed of per year. The lacquer thinners were manifested to Oldover in Cascade, Virginia, for resource recovery. The solid paint booth residue was sent to Caldwell Systems in Lenoir, North Carolina, and to the Singer Plant #3 in Lenoir for incineration (Ref. 3).

Prior to 1976, an estimated 795 tons of spray booth residue and nonhalogenated solvents were placed in drums and cans and disposed of in the city or county landfills (Ref. 4). Waste analysis data indicate no hazardous materials with the exception of filler scrappings were discarded in the landfill. The filler scrappings are defined as hazardous due to their ignitability potential. However, landfilling of the waste may have rendered the material nonhazardous (Ref. 5).

Singer Co. Furniture Div. submitted a RCRA Part A application as a storer of hazardous waste on November 11, 1980 (Ref. 6). An inspection conducted by the state Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Branch in 1982 revealed that the facility preferred to delist as a storer but retain their generator status and ID number (Ref. 7). Compliance inspections conducted by the state during 1983 indicated that the facility was in compliance with generator standards (Refs. 3, 8). The facility currently is not classified under RCRA (Ref. 9).

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Environmental Protection Agency  
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The Singer Co. Furniture Division facility is located in the Triassic lowland of the Piedmont Physiographic Province (Ref. 10, p. 6). Lee County has a moist, temperate climate with a net annual rainfall of 4 inches and a 1-year, 24-hour rainfall of 3.1 inches (Refs. 11, 12).

Geologically, the Triassic lowland of the Piedmont Physiographic Province consists of shale, siltstone, and sandstone of the Newark group of late Triassic age (Ref. 10, p. 6). The thickness of the Newark group has been estimated to be 7,000 to 8,000 feet (Ref. 10, p. 18). The rocks of the Newark group are bounded on both sides and possibly underlain by rocks of the volcanic rock series. On the southeastern edges of the graben, which is in southeastern Lee County, sands of the Coastal Plain formation cover the Triassic rocks (Ref. 10, p. 15). The coastal plain sediments, when present, are very thin and only found in southeastern Lee County. The thickest area of the sediments is near Lemon Springs, 8 miles south of Sanford (Ref. 10, p. 58).

Specifically, the town of Sanford is located in the Sanford Formation of a Triassic Basin. The Sanford Formation consists of mudstone, sandstone, and conglomerate (Ref. 13). The aquifer existing in the Sanford area yields little water (Ref. 10, p. 35). In 1961, well yields in the Triassic basin were not considered large enough for municipal supplies (Ref. 10, p. 58). There are some diabase dikes in some areas of the Triassic Basin which can produce large yields (Ref. 10, p. 35). Prior to 1961, Lee County had no municipal wells; however, well yields for domestic and industrial supplies were sufficient. Wells located near Sanford have depths of about 110 feet. Water levels would be about 70 feet below land surface (bls) (Ref. 10, pp. 58-61). Presently, Lee County has five municipal wells in use with depths ranging from 125 feet to 450 feet (Ref. 2).

The various sedimentary rocks underlying Sanford are hydraulically interconnected. Compaction and cementation of the sedimentary rocks have reduced the permeability (Ref. 10, p. 13). The zone of compacted sedimentary rocks is the layer of lowest hydraulic conductivity between the surface and the aquifer. Compacted sedimentary rocks of this type have been shown to have hydraulic conductivities that range between  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  and  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  cm/sec (Ref. 14).

Lee County obtains its water supply from municipal wells. Three wells (wells 4, 5, and 6) are located south of Tramway, more than 4 miles southwest of the Singer facility. These wells are not currently in use due to a high mineral content. Five additional wells are located 1 to 4 miles southwest of the facility. Well depths are 125 feet for wells 1, 2, and 3 and 450 feet for wells 7 and 8. Water from these wells is mixed prior to distribution. The county system serves 820 connections (Refs. 2, 15, 16).

Residents not served by the municipal water system obtain water from private wells. The nearest private well is located on Boykin Avenue 6,000 feet south of the facility (Refs. 2, p. 7; 15, 16). Private wells are typically drilled to depths ranging from 100 to 110 feet bls in this area (Ref. 2, p. 7). Using topographic maps of the area, house count, indicates 87 homes within a 3-mile radius are served by private wells. Additionally, 175 homes between 3 and 4 miles from the facility are not served by a municipal system (Ref. 15). The actual numbers may be higher given the age of the topographic maps.

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Overland surface water drainage from the facility enters Little Buffalo Creek located approximately 20 feet east of the facility. Little Buffalo Creek flows approximately 5.4 miles to the north to an unnamed lake which is 3,000 feet in length. Little Buffalo Creek then continues from the lake for 1 mile before reaching the Deep River. This river, in turn, flows to the northeast for approximately 6 miles, then flows 4 miles southeast until it enters the Cape Fear River (Ref. 15).

The City of Sanford has a surface water intake located more than 18 miles downstream from the facility on the Cape Fear River. The intake is located 10 overland miles northeast of the facility. Another intake which would not be affected by surface drainage, is located 5 miles upstream of the facility on the Deep River (Refs. 2, 15). The water from the two intakes is mixed prior to distribution (Ref. 2, p. 7). This system serves approximately 9,000 connections within the Sanford city limits (Ref. 2, p. 2). Residents recreationally fish and canoe along the Deep and the Cape Fear Rivers; residents also canoe on the Little Buffalo Creek (Ref. 17). The facility is not located in a flood plain (Ref. 18).

There are commercial and industrial businesses within a 4-mile radius of the facility. The Singer Co. Furniture facility is fenced; however, the property is not fenced everywhere along its boundary (Refs. 2, pp. 6-7; 15). The population within 1 mile of the facility is 1,151. Additionally, the population is 22,712 within 4 miles from the facility. The nearest residence is less than 30 feet to the west of the facility (Refs. 2, p. 7; 19). The nearest school is located on 4th Street, 1,400 feet southeast of the facility (Ref. 15).

A critical habitat for the Cape Fear Shiner (Notropis mekistocholas), a federally-designated endangered species, is found north of Sanford but would not be affected by surface drainage from the facility (Refs. 17, 20). Several other endangered and threatened species of animals and plants are found in Lee County. These are the red-cockaded woodpecker (Picooides borealis), bog spicebush (Lindera subcoriacea), Carolina grass-of-Parnassus (Parnassia caroliniana), Nestronia (Nestronia umbellula), and Harperella (Ptilimnium nodosum) (Ref. 21).

Based on the results of this evaluation, FIT 4 recommends that no further remedial action be planned for Singer Co. Furniture Division. If you have any questions or comments concerning this inspection, please do not hesitate to contact me at NUS Corporation.

Very truly yours,

*Kenneth Sanders*

Kenneth Sanders  
Project Manager

KS/gwn

Enclosures

cc: Robert Morris

Approved:

*W. A. Blackwell*

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