

Walch, John

From: Walch, John
Sent: Wednesday, October 08, 2014 2:32 PM
To: Tawanya Byrd
Cc: Brown, James; Vozzo, Steven; Boyles, Sean
Subject: Planters Chemical-Square Deal Package Store

Ms. Smith,

Below please find a brief history of the Inactive Hazardous Sites Program and our involvement with the Planter's Chemical Site followed by answers to your questions.

Inactive Hazardous Sites Program History and Role at this Site

The Inactive Hazardous Sites Program (Program), which is part of the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Division of Waste Management (Division), was established in 1987 by the North Carolina legislature to address unpermitted discharges of hazardous substances (non-petroleum products). The Program does not regulate the handling of materials or permit operations and disposal, other Department of Environment and Natural Resources and federal agencies perform those roles.

At this time the Program has very little information on the operation/history of Planters Chemical facility. We have recently learned that the Planters Chemical Co. may have manufactured the insecticide Lindane at this location and the Thompson-Hayward Chemical Company's Planters Chemical Division was listed at 616 Commerce Street in the 1960, 1964, 1968 & 1976 editions of the NC Directory of Manufacturing Firms.

The Program's involvement with the Planters Chemical site has been limited. On December 18, 2012, the Division's Underground Storage Tank (UST) Section referred the former Square Deal Package Store (the "Site") located at 636 Robeson Street to the Program and provided a copy of the September 25, 2003 Comprehensive Site Assessment (CSA) report. The CSA was prepared by the property owner's environmental consultant as part of a UST investigation at the former Square Deal Package Store. The UST Section works on petroleum related releases. This Site was referred to the Program because chlorinated solvents and pesticides/insecticides (non-petroleum contaminants) were also detected in groundwater during the UST investigation. On December 19, 2012, Program staff issued a Notice of Regulatory Requirements (NORR) letter to the property owner William T. Sanders. On May 2, 2013, the owner's environmental consultant submitted a response dated April 3, 2013. Information included in that response, indicated that the Planters Chemical facility was located adjacent to the former Square Deal Package Store. Based on that information and the type of contaminants present, the Program changed the Site name in our inventory from Square Deal Package Store to Planters Chemical.

Based upon information included in environmental consultant's response, the Site was determined to be lower risk and thus eligible for conducting an approved voluntary cleanup through the Program's privatized oversight program known as the Registered Environmental Consultant (REC) Program. A letter notifying the owner that the Site was eligible for the REC Program was mailed on May 3, 2013. To date no response has been received.

The Inactive Hazardous Sites Program's files for this Site are available online at:
<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wm/sf-file-records>

PLANTERS CHEMICAL

Based on the information provided by the environmental consultant, this Site does not appear to be one of our higher risk sites. The Program is however, reviewing current Site conditions, attempting to gain additional information on the Site's history and identify potentially responsible parties. If new information indicates that this Site poses a higher risk, the Program will make the Site a higher priority for action. If you have any additional information that you can provide to help us with our evaluation, it would be greatly appreciated.

Below are the questions that we received from you with our answers.

1. Any air quality control reports that dates between 1960-present (although this may not have been a requirement for factory operations during the early years, the earliest time will be a start).

The Inactive Hazardous Sites Program does not have any air quality reports for 616 Commerce Street or 636 Robeson Street. The Division of Air Quality in the NCDENR Fayetteville Regional Office may have some information on facilities that operated at these locations. The Regional Supervisor for the Division of Air Quality is Steven Vozzo, you can contact him at at Steven.Vozzo@ncdenr.gov.

2. When/Who regulated factory facilities during 1960-1980, if any.

Environmental regulations in the time period between 1960-1980 were not as well developed as they are today. The federal regulatory authority for environmental issues related to human health was first introduced with the Clean Air Act (1963), the Clean Water Act (1977) and the Toxic Substances Control Act (1976). However, pesticide manufacturing which may have occurred at this facility would most likely have been under the regulatory authority of the NC Department of Agriculture at that time. Other agencies like the local health department may have also regulated the facility, depending on what type of activities were occurring on the property.

3. Any environmental reports on facility; citing, etc. during 1960- present.

Currently the only report in the Inactive Hazardous Sites Program's files is a copy of the September 25, 2003 CSA Report for the Square Deal Package Store received from the UST Section when the Site was referred to our Program in December 2012. The NC Department of Agriculture (NCDOA) may have records based on discussions with Dr. Henry Wade. The point of contact to research this information would be Pat Jones with NCDOA at 919-733-3556. For other environmental reports related to the petroleum release from the Square Deal Package Store please contact James Brown (James.Brown@ncdenr.gov) with the UST Section in the Fayetteville Regional Office or for air quality reports Steven Vozzo in the Division of Air Quality (as indicated in question #1).

4. History of chemical plant- name, DBA, name changes during the time of active operations.

At this time, the Inactive Hazardous Sites Program does not have any information on the history of the Planters Chemical facility and it is unclear if the former Square Deal Package Store was located on the same portion of the property where the Planters Chemical facility operated.

5. Any and all Fire Dept. reports between 1960- end of operations.

Contact your local Fire Department to see if any information is available. The Inactive Hazardous Sites Program does not have any Fire Department reports for this site.

6. *Who approved development of the Savoy Heights Community (history of land prior to building subdivision).*

Cities and counties regulate and approve land development. The City of Fayetteville and/or Cumberland County may have information about the development of this area and prior land use.

7. *Current owners and year purchased. Did they disclose purpose intended for use of commercial property?*

The Inactive Hazardous Sites Program's last correspondence (May 3, 2013) was sent to William T. Sanders who was the owner at that time.

Current ownership and property sales information should be available at the Cumberland County Register of Deeds office. We do not know what disclosures buyers or sellers may make. They are not required to report them to us.

8. *Was below ground chemical evaluations completed at any time between 1970-1990 and the reports? Is there still possible chemicals below ground in the area where the tower was affixed?*

The Inactive Hazardous Sites Program is only familiar with the work documented in the September 25, 2003 CSA for the Square Deal Package Store. Work conducted for that report appears to focus along Robeson Street near the location of the former store. See the UST Section records for information on the UST investigation conducted at the Square Deal Package Store (call James Brown as indicated in question #3).

The Inactive Hazardous Sites Program is not familiar with the "tower area" referenced in the question.

9. *Were there any hazardous signage located on the exterior of the property during operations? Were the residents notified by any city officials regarding the hazards of the plant during the 1960-1980 time frame and if so who notified them? Is there evidence of this?*

We have no information as the Inactive Hazardous Sites Program does not regulate and approve operations of commercial facilities.

10. *What were the hazards considered; physical hazard, health hazard, simple asphyxiant hazard, pyrophoric gas hazard, or HNO₃ (hazards not otherwise classified)?*

Regarding questions 9 & 10, the Inactive Hazardous Sites Program does not currently have any information on the history of the Planters Chemical Site or its day to day operations. Please also note that the time frame in question is prior to the creation of Inactive Hazardous Sites Program in 1987 and when the Program first learned of this Site in December 2012.

I hope you find this information helpful.

*John W. Walch
Eastern Unit Supervisor
Inactive Hazardous Sites Branch
NC Division of Waste Management
Superfund Section
(919) 707-8356*

E-mail correspondence to and from this address may be subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties.

