



May 6, 1985

NASA/Plumbrook
Taylor and Columbus Roads
Sandusky, OH 44870

Dear Concerned Party:

Ohio EPA has completed the enclosed preliminary assessment as part of our ongoing process to identify and remedy hazardous materials problems in Ohio. We are providing you with a copy of this information because of your identified owner and/or operator status.

Ohio EPA will ultimately screen (or "preliminarily assess") over 800 sites included on U.S. EPA's Emergency and Remedial Response Inventory System (ERRIS) list of 15,000+ sites nationwide. This screening is based upon readily available information, and is used to prioritize sites for additional investigation as outlined in the National Contingency Plan. (See 40 CFR Part 300) The Unregulated Sites staff conduct additional activities based upon the priority assigned in the preliminary assessment (none, low, medium, high). A site inspection with sampling sufficient to characterize the site typically follows the preliminary assessment. Actions subsequent to the site inspection - if warranted - include Superfund listing and remedial actions.

The preliminary assessments are put in our files when they are completed and sent to U.S. EPA. We expect that an upcoming public status update may increase interest in these documents. Consequently we are giving you this information to better enable you to address any possible inquiries from the public. We welcome any additional information or comments and ask that you contact the Unregulated Sites staff at the following offices:

Central	Columbus	614/462-6733 or 462-8934
Northeast	Twinsburg	216/425-9171
Southwest	Dayton	513/461-4670
Northwest	Bowling Green	419/352-8461
Southeast	Logan	614/385-8501

You might also wish to contact our Public Interest Center at 1-614-466-8508.

Sincerely,

Steven H. White, Chief
Division of Solid & Hazardous Waste Management

SHW/maf

cc: NWDO

Narrative: NASA

The NASA-Plumbrook facility is located south of Sandusky, Ohio on Taylor and Columbus Roads. The site, comprised of over 5,000 acres, was an Army munitions factory during World War II. The facility was closed after the war and ownership was transferred to NASA in the 1960's. Areas of environmental concern are the pink/red water lagoons and the PCB storage area.

The pink/red water is a waste product from TNT and DNT production. There are three lagoon areas on the property. A decision as to whether this waste is hazardous has yet to be made. Various analyses has been undertaken of the water and sediment. Results show low concentrations are present, generally in the ppb range. Wildlife and vegetation flourish in the area indicating that the material is not toxic. The National Guard is currently working on an environmental assessment including extensive sampling of the lagoon areas. This study should give additional data on which a decision of the pink/red water issue can be arrived at.

The PCB storage area is comprised of an old warehouse with a concrete floor. PCB's are no longer stored on-site. A spill occurred in 1981 when a contractor was moving a transformer and dropped it. Approximately 170 gallons of PCB contaminated oil spilled on the warehouse floor. Of the amount spilled, 120 gallons were recovered and hauled off-site to permitted facilities. The remainder, which leaked under the concrete floor, contaminated the soil leaving concentrations ranging up to 2,400 ppm. The warehouse has warning signs posted and is no longer used. Four monitoring wells surround the area and quarterly samples are taken. Thus far no contamination of groundwater has been detected.

With the ongoing assessment being conducted by the National Guard and no apparent hazards threatening human health, a FIT inspection is not required. Continued efforts should be made to determine if the pink/red water is hazardous while NASA will continue to monitor the PCB area. Should events arise where remedial action is needed, D.O.D. may be contacted utilizing their Installation Restoration Program.

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KCC/jw
6/19/84