

State of Oregon
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

Date: February 7, 1994

To: File, Wagstaff Battery (ECSI #1243)

From: Gil Wistar, Site Assessment/NWR

CC: Michael E. Rosen

Subject: Complaint, file review, and discussion with site owner

On February 2, 1994, Ian Macrae (287-5637) called to complain about the pile of lead at Wagstaff Battery at 2124 N. Williams Ave. in Portland. Mr. Macrae is a neighbor (address: 36 NE Thompson) and was concerned because his neighbor, Rob Bardel, had had a friend analyze a soil sample from his property, and it came back at 2,000 ppm total lead. Macrae said that on Wagstaff property there was a pile of soil about 20 feet high, covered with plastic and tires, which has been on site since the spring of 1993; Macrae feels as though this pile, and the Wagstaff site in general, presents a hazard to surrounding residents and DEQ should be testing soil to check on these potential hazards. I explained how DEQ establishes its priorities, given its limited resources, so that quick sampling would not occur unless there was evidence of an immediate threat to health & environment. Nonetheless, I indicated that I would be interested in any sampling results from neighbors' yards, and that it might be helpful if I could talk with Mr. Bardel. Macrae said he'd call back with more information.

I discussed the site with Rai Peterson and Chuck Clinton, and reviewed the NWR files on this site today. Rai had summarized site information in September 1992 and referred the site to ECD for follow-up; he'd assigned a medium priority for further action and had sent an "options" letter to the property owner, Bruce Hindman (282-5531). Apparently, in 1992 Rai had discussed Voluntary Cleanup at some length with Mr. Hindman, who subsequently decided not to participate.

Until about 1991, Wagstaff manufactured industrial batteries, using primarily lead oxide and sulfuric acid as hazardous raw materials. An interior sump collected washwater and runoff from manufacturing operations, where solids settled out and were reclaimed; residual wastewater drained into an engineered exterior drywell, which was about 5 feet wide and 15 feet deep. RCRA personnel inspected the site in April 1992 as a result of a prior complaint; they found no hazardous waste violations. The inspection memo referred to a daily wastewater flow of 200-300 gallons into the sump and drywell before manufacturing ceased in June 1991.

I called Mr. Hindman this afternoon to get an update on the site, since on September 2,

Memo To: File, Wagstaff Battery (ECSI #1243)
February 7, 1994
Page 2

1993, he had sent a letter to Site Assessment requesting information on the "Voluntary PA" program at DEQ, and there was no indication that anyone had responded. Mr. Hindman said he had "mined" lead oxide from the interior of the drywell, and sent it to a secondary lead smelter. Then, his consultant, Bill Hayes from EIC Consultants (255-0046), had begun excavating soil from around the drywell and stockpiled it on-site. The stockpile totals between 50 and 75 tons. He said that he'd been told that the soil might be considered a hazardous waste, and it would cost \$60,000 to send to Arlington, which would "break the company." Previously, Chuck Clinton had told me that EIC told him over the phone of a 60 mg/l TCLP result for lead, and this may have been the source of this hazardous waste issue. However, Mr. Hindman had not heard of this 60 mg/l result, although he knew of one sample from the stockpile and six or seven from the sidewalls and bottom of the excavated drywell area. He said that EIC is currently running TCLP extracts from these drywell samples.

In spite of his strong objection to the cost of DEQ VCP oversight, Mr. Hindman agreed that DEQ might be able to help him achieve his cleanup goals, and said he'd contact me when he got the TCLP results from EIC. At that time, we agreed that it would be useful to arrange a meeting to discuss site issues and, once again, to explore the possibility of his signing up with VCP. He would not reveal his motivations for cleaning up the site, but it's likely that he's angling for an NFA letter.

NOTE: On February 14, 1994, Rob Bardel (331-0742) called to complain about the soil pile at Wagstaff, which he says is incompletely covered and blows around during windy and gusty periods. He characterized the contaminated soil as gray with yellowish streaks, and fine-grained; it did not really present a problem until the soil was excavated several months ago. Mr. Bardel also indicated that he did not have an accurate soil sample result from his property.