



Strube, Inc Removal Site Lancaster County, Pennsylvania – Strube Warehouse Cleanups Continue –



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY - REGION 3

MAY 28, 2008

EPA Continues Oversight of Warehouse Cleanups...

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in cooperation with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), is conducting and overseeing cleanups of warehouses located throughout Lancaster County, PA (Columbia, Marietta, Maytown and Mount Joy).

The warehouses store miscellaneous items, including old aviation dials and instruments with radium paint, a mixture of combustibles, and devices containing mercury. Both EPA and the property owner Strube, Inc are conducting cleanups in different warehouses, which involves removing the items containing radium, mercury and/or other potentially hazardous substances. EPA is overseeing Strube's cleanup as it progresses.

Currently, the focus of the cleanup are warehouses located in Columbia and Marietta. EPA is conducting the cleanup of the warehouses in Columbia and Strube is conducting the cleanup of warehouses in Marietta.

Work Done to Date...

- ✓ Increased security measures to help mitigate trespassing and potential fire threats
- ✓ Over 500 drums of radioactive items have been removed from the warehouses in Columbia by the EPA for proper off-site disposal.
- ✓ Strube's radiation contractor has prepared about 80 containers for proper disposal. Off-site disposal of this material is expected to be completed by early June.

Photo: Example of drums being removed from the warehouses.

What You May Notice...

- ◆ Workers will be packing materials into drums and other appropriate containers for disposal
- ◆ Workers are using hand-held meters to read radioactivity levels for materials and packed containers
- ◆ Workers are required to wear personal protective gear while conducting onsite activities. Gear may include some or all of the following:
 - ▶ Tyvek® zip-up coveralls, booties and gloves,
 - ▶ breathing masks
 - ▶ hard hats, and
 - ▶ safety glasses.

Next Steps...

Once radioactive materials are packaged for removal, the drums and other proper containers will be transported off-site by truck. All vehicles and operators must comply with Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) laws and regulations pertaining to the transportation of hazardous materials. Materials will be transported to approved, licensed landfills located in Utah and Washington states.

Packaging and shipping of these materials will continue until the contaminated items are removed from the warehouses. Cleanup activities are estimated to take approximately 12 to 18 months.



Health and Safety Concerns...

The main contaminants of concern are Radium-226 and mercury. The foremost concern the site poses is in the event of a fire that could result in radioactive contamination being released into the environment.

Radiation surveys and testing performed to date indicate that **the general public is not currently exposed to harmful levels of radiation** from these warehouses. However, because of unknown past exposures:

- Workers who entered these buildings prior to being trained as designated “Radiation Workers,” may have exceeded worker safety standards; and
- Individuals (including trespassers) who have removed radium-painted materials from the warehouses and/or still possesses such materials, may be exposed to radiation.

If you have materials from the warehouse, please **do not throw them in the garbage**. Contact PADEP or EPA for assistance, at the phone numbers listed.

Background...

- ▶ The warehouses are in various neighborhoods, including residential and business or combinations of each.
- ▶ PADEP inspected the warehouses as part of a license application process. Results of the inspection showed the need for proper handling and disposal of all radioactive materials.
- ▶ EPA assumed cleanup authority in late January 2008, which involves conducting a cleanup and working with the property owner to help meet cleanup requirements and deadlines.

For More Information
please visit EPA’s Strube, Inc Site webpage at:

www.epaosc.net/Strube



Cooperative Cleanup Efforts...

During this site investigation and cleanup, EPA has been working with Strube, Inc and their contractors; local municipalities officials, as well as county, state and federal agencies.

For cleanup-related questions or concerns,
please contact:

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- Ann Breslin, On-Scene Coordinator:
(215) 814-3311 or (215) 287-8157
breslin.ann@epa.gov
- Trish Taylor,
Community Involvement Coordinator:
(215) 814-5539 or taylor.trish@epa.gov.

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP)

- David Allard, CHP, Bureau of Radiation
Protection (BRP) Director: (717) 787-2480

Lancaster County Emergency Management Agency

- Randy Gockley, Director: (717) 664-1200

For health-related questions, please contact:

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

- Dr. Karl Markiewicz: 215-814-3149 or
- Lora Werner: 215-814-3141

Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH)

- Dr. Mark White: (717) 346-3285