



Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor
Eric E. Whitaker, M.D., M.P.H., Director

525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001 • www.idph.state.il.us

October 6, 2006

Patricia Nomm, Director of Environmental Health
McHenry County Department of Health
McHenry County Government Center
2200 N. Seminary Avenue – Route 47 North
Woodstock, Illinois 60098

Dear Ms. Nomm:

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to evaluate hazardous waste sites in Illinois to determine the potential for adverse health effects from exposure to chemicals. On June 22, 2006 you sent a letter to ATSDR asking for a review of data your department had collected in the McCullom Lake area and for an opinion on “whether the groundwater contamination plume has or will represent a potential negative public health risk to the residents of McCullom Lake.” The data included private well samples collected by your department, and additional data and information collected by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). IDPH has consulted with ATSDR and this letter serves as an opinion of our agency regarding the sampling data and information provided, and serves as a response to your petition letter.

In May 2006, the McHenry County Health Department collected water samples from nine private wells in the McCullom Lake area. These samples were analyzed for volatile organic chemicals. Of the nine samples, only one well contained a detectable level of a chemical. The table below summarizes the detected chemical and the subsequent resample results.

Chemical	Level Detected (ppb)	Health-Based Comparison Value (ppb)	Date Sampled
1,1,1-trichloroethane	1.5	200 MCL	May 2, 2006
1,1,1-trichloroethane	2.09	200 MCL	May 23, 2006

ppb – parts per billion
MCL – Maximum Contaminant Level

The levels of 1,1,1-trichloroethane detected in the private well are much less than the maximum contaminant level (MCL) set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The MCL is protective of all ages and IDPH would not expect any health effects from exposure to water containing this level of 1,1,1-trichloroethane. IDPH would not recommend any change in current water use patterns.

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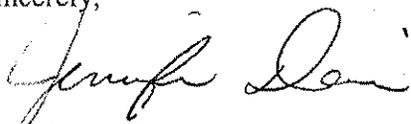
In addition to the May 2006 sampling data, maps also were provided to IDPH that showed the location of the contamination plume (Attachment 1). Based on this map it appears the plume is moving southeast, but has not reached the area of McCullom Lake. The sampling data confirm that contaminants have not reached private wells in this area.

Currently, private well users in the McCullom Lake area are not being exposed to contaminants from Modine Manufacturing or Rohm and Haas. Based on the sampling data and current plume location this site does not pose a public health hazard to residents of the McCullom Lake area. However, continued monitoring should continue to ensure that the plume does not contaminate these private wells.

IDPH recommends that monitoring of the extent and location of the plume continue to ensure that the contamination does not reach the McCullom Lake area.

If you have further questions, or need additional information, please contact me at 217-785-3239.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Davis
Environmental Health Specialist

cc: Leslie Campbell, ATSDR
Michele Colledge, ATSDR Region 5
IDPH West Chicago Regional Office