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Report.HW336025.06-08-1984.EPAWaterHook-up

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Wallkill
336 025

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AUX. NO. 236241 ROSCOL UR (RCA)

ROSENMAN COLIN FREUND LEWIS & COHEN

575 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

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JUN 8 1984

NYSDEC
New Paltz

May 31, 1984

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1300 19TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036
TELEPHONE (202) 463-7177

CALIFORNIA OFFICE
100 PINE STREET
SUITE 1700
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94111
TELEPHONE (415) 434-4641

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NUMBER

(212) 940-8707

Commissioner Williams
J. March
D. Robinson
D. Banks
J. Greenthal

BY HAND

Chief, Hazardous Waste Site Branch
Office of Emergency and Remedial Response
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
26 Federal Plaza - Room 402
New York, New York 10278

Attn: David Rogers, Project Officer

Re: Wallkill Site

Dear Mr. Rogers:

We have received the EPA's formal comments on the proposals dated May 8, 1984 by General Switch Corporation ("General Switch") (1) for provision of alternate domestic water on a temporary basis, and (2) for monthly sampling and analysis of wells at residences in the Washington Heights Area.

General Switch has accepted these comments and, within five days of receipt of the comments, has modified its plans to conform to the comments. Copies of the modified plans are enclosed. The plan for sampling and analysis includes the list of wells to be sampled, modified from the list submitted May 16, 1984 to conform to the EPA's comments.

General Switch is now implementing these plans. The alternate domestic water supply system is already in place, and I am informed by Fred C. Hart Associates that the well sampling will begin on Monday, June 4, 1984.

One further item: Dr. David Lipsky of Fred C. Hart Associates has informed me that on May 29, 1984, after EPA had transmitted its final list of wells to be sampled, he received a request directly from the Orange County Department of Health to include yet another well in the list. This is totally

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JUN 04 1984

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
DIVISION OF SOLID AND
HAZARDOUS WASTE

Mr. David Rogers

Page 2

May 31, 1984

irregular procedure, outside the scope of the May 1, 1984 Administrative Order on Consent between EPA and General Switch (the "Order"). General Switch would be willing to include this well, at the Cornelius residence, 331 Highland Avenue, in its sampling but only if EPA now gives its explicit approval for this irregular request. In future, we would expect communications about General Switch's work pursuant to the Order to come through the established channels and within the time periods specified in the Order.

Very truly yours,



Grace Goodman

GG/ks

Enclosures

cc: Director, Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste ✓
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Commissioner of Health
Orange County Department of Health

May 30, 1984

Plan for Temporary Provision of Drinking Water

Section IA. of the May 1, 1984 Administrative Order on Consent requires the General Switch Corporation (GS) to submit a plan for provision of drinking water on a short term basis. This plan, which was submitted within seven (7) days of the effective date of the ORDER, provides for alternate domestic water upon a temporary basis to residences in the Washington Heights area whose wells are contaminated at or above fifty (50) ppb of tetrachloroethylene.

Based upon the sampling data made available to us, a total of seven residences currently or in the recent past have been found with wells contaminated with tetrachloroethylene at a concentration of 50 ppb or greater. Based upon this data, the following residences on Highland Avenue currently require a temporary domestic potable water supply:

- #297 Highland Avenue - Robanna
- #307 Highland Avenue - Ruppert
- #309 Highland Avenue - Barry
- #316 Highland Avenue - Stout
- #320 Highland Avenue - Parella
- #327 Highland Avenue - Lobb
- #329 Highland Avenue - Osborne

These seven (7) residences are currently connected to a temporary domestic water supply installed by EPA. This temporary system consists of a 2" PVC overland pipe supplying domestic water to #'s 307, 309, 316, 320, 327, and 329 Highland Avenue. This pipe extends from the water main at General Switch. The house located at 297 Highland Avenue is served by a 2" PVC pipe which extends from an existing water main near the Hebrew School located on Watkins Avenue.

To prevent freezing, the 2" PVC pipe is jacketed by a 4" PVC pipe. This outer 4" PVC pipe is taped off to prevent ice formation. Bales of salt hay are placed over the line for additional insulation. Wherever the pipe crosses the street it goes underground at a depth of 2-3 feet.

In response to Section IA. of the consent order, GS will undertake the following:

1. Provide for the cost, upkeep and maintenance of the existing temporary water supply system currently serving the seven (7) aforementioned residences on Highland Avenue.
2. Provide monthly inspection of the integrity of the temporary system by a licensed professional engineer employed by Fred C. Hart Associates (FCHA).
3. Install at GS's expense additional connections or activated carbon adsorption units to any additional residences whose wells are found by 1) GS's monthly sampling pursuant to I.B of the Order, 2) USEPA, 3) NYDEC or 4) OCDH to contain more than fifty ppb tetrachloroethylene. Note: The engineering specifications of the carbon units will be approved by EPA prior to installation. These specifications cannot be determined now, since they depend upon the home plumbing system design and the degree of well contamination.
4. For contingency planning, FCHA will maintain a list of pipe line suppliers and contractors who are available for installation of any additional water lines that might reasonably be required.
5. FCHA will also maintain a file containing the technical specifications and suppliers of suitable domestic carbon adsorption units.

The provision of domestic water on a temporary basis will continue pending implementation of long term remedial actions and/or the installation of a permanent domestic water supply system.

FRED C. HART ASSOCIATES, INC.

Dr. David Lipsky
Manager Public Health
and Chemistry Group

cc: Director, Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste,
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Commissioner of Health
Orange County Department of Health

May 30, 1984

Plan for Sampling and Analysis of Drinking Water Wells

Section IB. of the May 1, 1984 Administrative Order on Consent requires General Switch Corporation (GS) to submit a plan for monthly sampling and analysis of any sources of drinking water which have been determined by the Orange County Department of Health (OCDH) upon the basis of sampling or other evidence to be in danger of becoming contaminated with tetrachloroethylene. This plan was submitted within seven (7) days of the effective date of the Order and revised to conform to EPA's formal comments within five (5) days of GS's receipt of those comments.

1. Based on a meeting May 11, 1984 between representatives of Fred C. Hart Associates ("FCHA") and representatives of the OCDH, on May 16, 1984, GS submitted a list of 25 wells recommended for sampling. The EPA's formal comments modified that list and increased the number of wells to be sampled to 26.

2. On May 22, 1984, EPA representatives met with FCHA representatives to exchange site specific information. FCHA has reviewed additional background data on well location, construction, and contamination.

3. Based on these meetings and data reviews, the list of wells for sampling includes the following addresses:

Highland Avenue

- | | | |
|-----|----------|------|
| 1. | Petrizzo | #292 |
| 2. | Schmick | #298 |
| 3. | Liska | #304 |
| 4. | Tessler | #287 |
| 5. | Janiak | #295 |
| 6. | Eckerson | #299 |
| 7. | Perez | #338 |
| 8. | Knapp | #317 |
| 9. | Ogden | #319 |
| 10. | Seeley | #321 |
| 11. | Gilbert | #323 |
| 12. | Fiore | #325 |
| 13. | Crooks | #335 |
| 14. | Pitt | #355 |

Electric Avenue

- | | | |
|-----|----------|------|
| 15. | Van Pelt | # 31 |
|-----|----------|------|

Elkins Avenue

| | | |
|-----|------------------|------|
| 16. | Wegenroth | #168 |
| 17. | Holmes | #175 |
| 18. | Prior King Press | #230 |

Commonwealth Avenue

| | | |
|-----|-------------|------|
| 19. | Lopez | #174 |
| 20. | Palermo | #183 |
| 21. | Brinkerhoff | #197 |
| 22. | McEntee | #227 |
| 23. | Ruppert | #229 |
| 24. | Heilfurth | #233 |
| 25. | Berry | #210 |
| 26. | Varga | #220 |

4. Within two weeks, GS will complete its first sampling of the wells listed above. Samples will be collected according to the general protocols in Section 1.2.9 and the Quality Assurance procedures in Section 2.0 of the Site Operations Plan submitted to EPA on May 7, 1984, with the following additions and/or changes:

(a) The tap as close as possible to the well head will be run to evacuate the well and water distribution system for a period of 15 minutes prior to sampling.

(b) Samples will be collected in standard 40 ml VOA vials.

(c) Samples will be preserved during shipment to the laboratory by packing on ice.

(d) Two replicates, one trip blank and one fill blank will be collected for each lot of 25 samples collected over a two day period.

(e) EPA Methods 601, 624, or other proven equivalent method will be used to analyze samples for tetrachloroethylene.

(f) Maximum holding times for all potable well analyses will be 14 days.

5. Based on data from these samples, from time to time GS will submit recommendations concerning future sampling rounds and the continuing need or lack of need for further sampling and analysis of drinking water wells.

FRED C. HART ASSOCIATES, INC.

Dr. David Lipsky
Manager Public Health
and Chemistry Group

cc: Director, Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste,
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Commissioner of Health
Orange County Department of Health

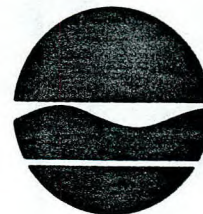
336025

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
50 Wolf Road, Albany, New York 12233-

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NYSDEC
New Patz



Henry G. Williams
Commissioner

November 7, 1986

Mr. Ronald Tramontano
Chief
Surveillance & Investigations
Bureau of Toxic Substances Mgmt.
NYS Department of Health
Empire State Plaza-Corning Tower
Albany, New York 12237

Dear Mr. ^{Ran}Tramontano:

Efforts are presently being made by my staff, regional staff and the USEPA to negotiate an acceptable remedial action plan for the above-referenced site. Several investigations conducted by General Switch's Consultant, F.C. Hart Associates, have indicated elevated concentrations of tetrachloroethylene contamination in both soil and local groundwater. It is felt that technical input from your office, at this time, is necessary.

Please have a member of your staff contact Mark Moroukian, of my office, so that he may forward the appropriate background information as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

John E. Iannotti, P.E.
Supervisor
Technical Support Section
Bureau of Eastern Remedial Action
Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste

cc: M. Moroukian
B. Davidson
L. Evans, Region 3
✓ J. Hardy, Region 3

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FRED C. HART ASSOCIATES, INC.

CONSULTANTS

530 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10036

(212) 840-3990

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MAY 24 1984

NYSDEC
New Paltz

May 16, 1984

NHN
Copy HJOT
CNGP. Keller
A. Kellner
R. Handwerker

Reg. 3

Chief, Hazardous Waste Branch
 Officer of Emergency and Remedial Response
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 26 Federal Plaza - Room 402
 New York, NY 10278

Attn: David Rogers, Project Officer Wallkill Site

Re: Interim Sampling Plan

Dear Mr. Rogers:

We are pleased to submit for your approval a list of domestic wells to be sampled as required in the Interim Domestic Well Sampling Plan required of General Switch (GS) in section 1B of the May 1, 1984 Administrative Order on Consent.

We have prepared this plan after review of background information on the site and a sampling plan prepared by Orange County Department of Health (OCDH) (enclosed as Attachment I) and after a meeting between Paul Dahlgren and Steve Gelb of FCHA and Messrs. Matthias I. Schleifer and George Shaw of OCDH on May 11, 1984. It is our opinion that the proposed list of wells to be sampled not only provides for the safety and well being of the residents of the neighborhood still dependent on private well water, but it also will yield valuable information on the current status of the tetrachloroethylene (PCE) plume in the bedrock aquifer.

We propose sampling 25 wells on the first round of monthly sampling. Sampling of these wells will be completed within two weeks of EPA approval of this plan. We reserve the right to recommend modifications to the list of wells after analyses are reviewed and other data developed in the Hydrogeologic Investigation. The list of wells proposed includes all but one of the OCHD priority two wells. We recommend not sampling the Holmes well at 175 Watkins Avenue at this time since it is a shallow dug well, and is therefore not drawing water from the bedrock aquifer. We have added some additional wells along Highland and Watkins Avenue which have shown traces of PCE in the past, and one well (Schmick, 298 Highland Avenue) which has never been sampled. We have modified the selection of wells in the priority three area (along Commonwealth Avenue) to correspond with what appears on the basis of our review of background data to be fracture patterns in the bedrock.

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DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
 DIVISION OF SOLID AND
 HAZARDOUS WASTE

May 16, 1984

During the May 11th meeting between FCHA and OCHD, Mr. Schlifer indicated that OCHD would sample the Lewis Well, at 313 Highland Avenue in the immediate future. If that well has been sampled prior to approval of this plan, we suggest substituting the Perez well, located at 338 Highland Avenue. This well is no longer used for potable water, but has shown small quantities of PCE in prior sampling.

The recommended wells are:

Highland Avenue

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------|-------|-----------------|
| 1. | Petrizzo, | # 292 | |
| 2. | Schmick, | # 298 | |
| 3. | Liska, | # 304 | |
| 4. | Tessler, | # 287 | |
| 5. | Janiak, | # 295 | |
| 6. | Eckerson, | # 299 | |
| 7. | Lewis | # 313 | or Perez, # 338 |
| 8. | Knapp, | # 317 | |
| 9. | Ogden, | # 319 | |
| 10. | Seeley, | # 321 | |
| 11. | Gilbert, | # 323 | |
| 12. | Fiore, | # 325 | |
| 13. | Crooks, | # 325 | |
| 14. | Pitt, | # 355 | |

Electric Avenue

- | | | |
|-----|-----------|------|
| 15. | Van Pelt, | # 31 |
|-----|-----------|------|

Watkins Avenue

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|-------|
| 16. | Wegenroth, | # 168 |
| 17. | Rasmossan, | # 187 |
| 18. | Morse, | # 190 |
| 19. | Radivoy, | # 229 |
| 20. | Prior King Press, | # 230 |

Commonwealth Avenue

- | | | |
|-----|--------------|-------|
| 21. | Reagan, | # 176 |
| 22. | Palermo, | # 183 |
| 23. | Brinkerhoff, | # 197 |
| 24. | McEntee, | # 227 |
| 25. | Ruppert, | # 229 |

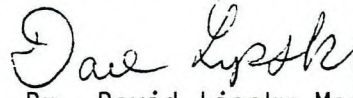
If any of these wells are unavailable for sampling, we will attempt to locate alternate wells. Alternate wells will be selected on the basis of location, well construction and availability.

May 16, 1984

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

FRED C. HART ASSOCIATES, INC.



Dr. David Lipsky Manager Public
Health and Chemistry Group

DL/se

cc: Director, Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste,
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Commissioner of Health
Orange County Department of Health



COUNTY OF ORANGE

LOUIS HEIMBACH, County Executive

Department of Health

124 MAIN STREET
GOSHEN, NEW YORK 10924 TEL: 914-294-7961

Walter O. Latzko
President, Board of Health

Russell C. Johnson, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

May 7, 1984

RECEIVED MAY 14 1984

David Lipsky, M.D.
Fred C. Hart Assoc.
530 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10036

Dear Doctor Lipsky:

As a first cut of well sample test requests by the Orange County Health Department, I have listed below the private wells by priority.

Priority 1 - 313 Highland Avenue - owner Chris Lewis
telephone 342-0139

This well has had test results with levels up to 49 ppb. I believe this well should be tested every seven to ten days until there is either 50 ppb exceeded or there is a trend downward to below 20 ppb.

Priority 2 - At least monthly:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. 31 Electric | - Van Pelt |
| 2. 168 Watkins | - Wegenroth |
| 3. 175 Watkins | - Holmes |
| 4. 228 Watkins | - Prior King Press |
| 5. 287 Highland Ave. | - Tessler |
| 6. 292 Highland Ave. | - Petrizzo |
| 7. 299 Highland Ave. | - Eckersonn |
| 8. 304 Highland Ave. | - Liska |
| 9. 317 Highland Ave. | - Knapp |
| 10. 319 Highland Ave. | - Ogdon |
| 11. 321 Highland Ave. | - Seely |
| 12. 323 Highland Ave. | - Gilbert |
| 13. 325 Highland Ave. | - Fiori |

Priority 3 - At random sampling on a periodic basis.
Suggested list:

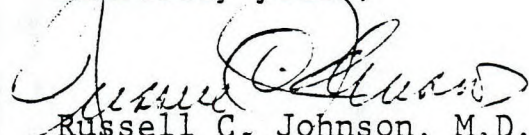
David Lipsky, M.D.
May 7, 1984
Page 2

1. 176 Commonwealth Ave. - Reagan
2. 197 Commonwealth Ave. - Brinkerhoff
3. 206 Commonwealth Ave. - Bliven
4. 210 Commonwealth Ave. - Berry
5. 220 Commonwealth Ave. - Varsa
6. 229 Commonwealth Ave. - Ruppert
7. 233 Commonwealth Ave. - Heilfurth
8. 245 Commonwealth Ave. - Meyers

Mr. Matthias J. Schleifer, Assistant Commissioner for Environmental Health, or Mr. George Shaw, Associate Public Health Engineer, will be the liaison persons for the Department.

We look forward to a cooperative relationship with your office.

Sincerely yours,



Russell C. Johnson, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

RCJ/sb

cc: Mr. M. J. Schleifer, OCHD



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II
26 FEDERAL PLAZA
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10278

NOV 18 1983

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NOV 29 1983

Mr. Henry G. Williams
Commissioner
State of New York
Department of Environmental Conservation
Albany, New York 12233-0001

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT
REGION #9

Dear Mr. Williams:

*- background
attached*

I received your letter of November 9, 1983 concerning the wellwater contamination problem in the town of Wallkill, New York.

We are already actively working with your staff in evaluating what measures would best address the problem at this initial stage, in the context of local, state and Federal resources. I have authorized my response staff to expend CERCL Act monies as an immediate removal action. This is first directed at pumping the most highly contaminated well(s) in an effort to reduce contaminant spread while we continue to work with both your staff and that of local government to define a more comprehensive solution, which includes a safe, temporary water supply for the affected homes.

In this regard, I believe that it is important that the State maintain a leadership role. We will, through our immediate removal action and further assistance, continue to support these efforts. Specifically, your continued leadership in investigating the source of the contamination, management of community relations aspects of the project, authorization for discharge to sewage treatment plants as needed and as feasible, development of a contamination plume control/recovery program, and laboratory support with on-site laboratory and other laboratory analyses, will be extremely valuable to the resolution of this problem.

We in turn will provide sampling and analytical resources which will augment those provided by the state, drilling of monitoring and recovery wells as considered necessary, and contractor hire to allow rapid, cost effective recovery operations at the most contaminated well(s). We will also provide general technical assistance in the above areas.

I would like to bring to your attention our limitation under the CERCL Act with regard to removal actions being restricted to six months in duration, once expenditure for contracting commences. Depending upon developments in this incident, the state may need to be fully prepared to continue essential activities at the end of that six month time limitation.

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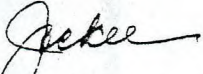
NOV 22 1983

COMMISSIONER OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION

*n. Rosenbush
a. a. Klaus
cc: Romer
Keller
HGW*

I share your concern for providing appropriate relief for this contamination problem, and look forward to working with you in implementing this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Schafer", written in dark ink.

Jacqueline E. Schafer
Regional Administrator

bcc: Commissioner Williams

L. Marsh
D. Grant
N. Nosenchuck (2)
D. Barolo
P. Keller, Region 3, New Paltz
C. Goddard
C. Manfredi, Region 3, White Plains
T. Reynolds
R. Tramontano, DOH
F. Rubel, EPA, Region II

NOV 9 1983

Dear Ms. Schafer:

It has been brought to my attention that high levels of tetrachloroethylene have been detected in two private wells in a densely populated area within the Town of Wallkill, Orange County, New York. The problem was detected through inspection of a pump where it was discovered that seals had deteriorated, causing failure.

The owner of the property had his well privately tested and contacted the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Orange County Health Department upon reviewing the laboratory results. On October 17-18, 1983, representatives of the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water, Region 3, sampled the well in question and one directly across the street. Levels of tetrachloroethylene were 120,000 and 2,500 ppb, respectively.

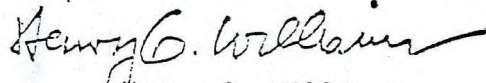
The Region 3 office has indicated a potential source for contamination approximately 300 feet from the wells. A plant inspection has been performed and an obvious explanation for observed levels of tetrachloroethylene was not found.

Contact has been made with Fred Rubel, Chief of the Emergency Response and Hazardous Materials Inspection Branch, for emergency response under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA). Our request for emergency response assistance was made because of the level of tetrachloroethylene detected, the close vicinity of other homes and the local geology in the area of the wells. According to bedrock maps developed by the New York State Geological Survey, local bedrock is predominantly shale and sandstone, each expected to exhibit extensive fracturing resulting in significant secondary permeability.

Since this situation was recently discovered, it does not appear on the National Priorities List. Due to the gross contamination levels and the known impact on water supplies, I ask that you consider this site eligible under CERCLA as an emergency removal action. The anticipated response would likely include the installation of sampling wells, determination of the feasibility of recovering a slug of tetrachloroethylene and installation of water treatment devices for the affected wells.

I look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,


Henry G. Williams

Ms. Jacqueline E. Schafer
Regional Administrator
United States Environmental
Protection Agency
Region II
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278

21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, N.Y. 12561-1696
(914) 255-5453

January 11, 1984

Orange County Health Department
124 Main Street
Goshen, New York 10924
Attn: Russell Johnson
Dear Russ:

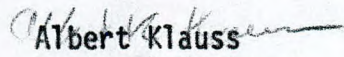
As I related to you on 1/6/84 on the telephone, regarding the Wallkill Well Contamination situation, the USEPA is currently evaluating the proposed funding of water mains for the affected area. An affirmative decision in this matter is predicated upon two conditions as follows:

There must be a written commitment that assures the cost of connecting the homes to the main will be borne locally, and that such connection will, in fact, be made.

Additionally, the Orange County Health Department shall identify the area which requires the installation of public water lines.

If you have any questions regarding the above conditions or require assistance in implementing them, as expeditiously as possible, please contact me.

Very truly yours,


Albert Klauss
Regional Engineer
Region 3

AK/di

cc: M. O'Toole
D. Cosgrove, Supervisor - Wallkill (T)
L. Hetling, NYS DOH
R. Hutchings, Mayor - Middletown (C)
F. Rubel, USEPA

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JAN 23 1984

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT
REGION #3

JAN 13 1984

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JAN 24 1984

N. Y. S. D. E. C.
NEW PALTZ

agency

Don Barolo

F.Y.I.

cc: B. Romer

P. Keller

Klaus

Honorable Benjamin A. Gilman
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Gilman:

This letter is in response to your request of December 9, 1983 requesting information and data related to contamination found in wells in the Town of Wallkill, New York.

Attached is a copy of all the data we have collected through the end of December 1983. Please note that the data is in an informal report prepared for your use. We plan to issue an update in late January or early February which would be sent to you when it becomes available.

If you have any additional questions or require an update on our activities at the site, please feel free to call Alice Jenik of my staff at (212) 264-7834.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Jacqueline E. Schafer

Jacqueline E. Schafer
Regional Administrator

Attachment

cc: ✓ Henry G. Williams, Commissioner
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation

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JAN 17 1984

COMMISSIONER OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
22ND DISTRICT, NEW YORK

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

December 9, 1983

COMMITTEES
POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

SUBCOMMITTEES
INVESTIGATIONS
HUMAN RESOURCES

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
NARCOTICS ABUSE AND
CONTROL
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

COMMITTEES:
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS
ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN
TASK FORCE ON
AMERICAN PRISONERS AND
MISSING IN SOUTHEAST
ASIA

Ms. Jacqueline E. Schafer
Regional Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278

Dear Ms. Schafer:

I am writing in regard to a matter of the greatest import to the citizens of Orange County. The polluted wells found in the Town of Wallkill represents the most serious health risk ever faced by these residents.

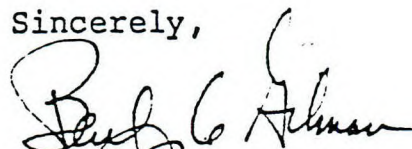
While EPA is currently involved in this situation, I ask that future remedial actions for the Town of Wallkill be given the highest priority.

Like all health risks the public is confronted with, rumors and misinformation are pervasive. To combat this ignorance, we must keep the public and local officials apprised of any and all developments. Accordingly, I am requesting any information EPA has obtained to date, particularly any laboratory data, be forwarded to my Washington Office on the earliest possible occasion.

Hopefully, with the cooperation of federal, state, and local officials, we can expeditiously eliminate this pending health risk.

With best wishes for a happy Holiday Season and good health and peace in the New Year.

Sincerely,



BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
Member of Congress

BAG:mr

PLEASE REPLY TO:

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2160 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
☒ TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3778

DISTRICT OFFICE:
44 EAST AVENUE
P.O. Box 358
☐ MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK 10940
☐ TELEPHONE: (914) 343-8888

DISTRICT OFFICE:
190 BROADWAY
☐ MONTICELLO, NEW YORK 12701
☐ TELEPHONE: (914) 796-1621

DISTRICT OFFICE:
223 ROUTE 59
☐ MONSEY, NEW YORK 10952
☐ TELEPHONE: (914) 357-8000

1/17/89

1/19/89

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|----|----|
| Influent Middletown STP | 19 | 3 |
| effluent middle town STP | 1 | L1 |
| 20' up stream Middletown STP | L1 | L1 |
| 100' Down Stream Middletown STP | 2 | 4 |
| T. Wall Kill STP Influent (10am 16) (3pm 4 and 6) | | 4 |
| " " " effluent | L1 | L1 |
| Bridge at Midway rd Down stream | ND | L1 |
| Bridge at Golf Course up stream | ND | L1 |
| Wall Kill River at 17m | ND | L1 |
| Wall Kill River at Rt 53 | ND | L1 |
| Manhole at Park Ave and High land Ave | | 1 |



Town of Wallkill

600 Route 211 East • Middletown, New York 10940

RECEIVED

JAN 31 1984

N. Y. S. D. E. C.
NEW PALTZ

Dennis C. Cosgrove
Supervisor
(914) 692-5811

January 19, 1984

Mr. Fred N. Rubel, Chief
Emergency Response Branch
Region II
Edison, New Jersey 08837

Dear Mr. Rubel:

This will confirm that pursuant to the Town of Wallkill agreement with the City of Middletown a charge of \$750. will be made to hook up each of the homes having contaminated wells in the Washington Heights area of the Town of Wallkill to the Middletown water department.

The Town will obtain agreements from each homeowner indicating that they will make the foregoing payment and in the event that payments are not made, the Town will, pursuant to the foregoing agreement, collect said payments as part of the real property taxes on each premises. Per the agreement, all hookups will be made by a licensed plumber.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Dennis C. Cosgrove
Dennis C. Cosgrove
Supervisor

/b

cc: Albert Klauss, Reg.Eng.
Reg.#3 ✓

Frank J. Rosen - Attorney - Town of Wallkill

John D. - Attorney - Town

Don Ingerson ~~Walsh~~

met with

Dr. G. C. Healy

Arthur Tolly

Eustance & Horowitz, Town Engineers

Albert Klauss

NYSDEC New Paltz

Fred Rubel

USEPA

Edison, N.J.

Roy Brown, Asst. to Senator Richard Schenck

561-7070

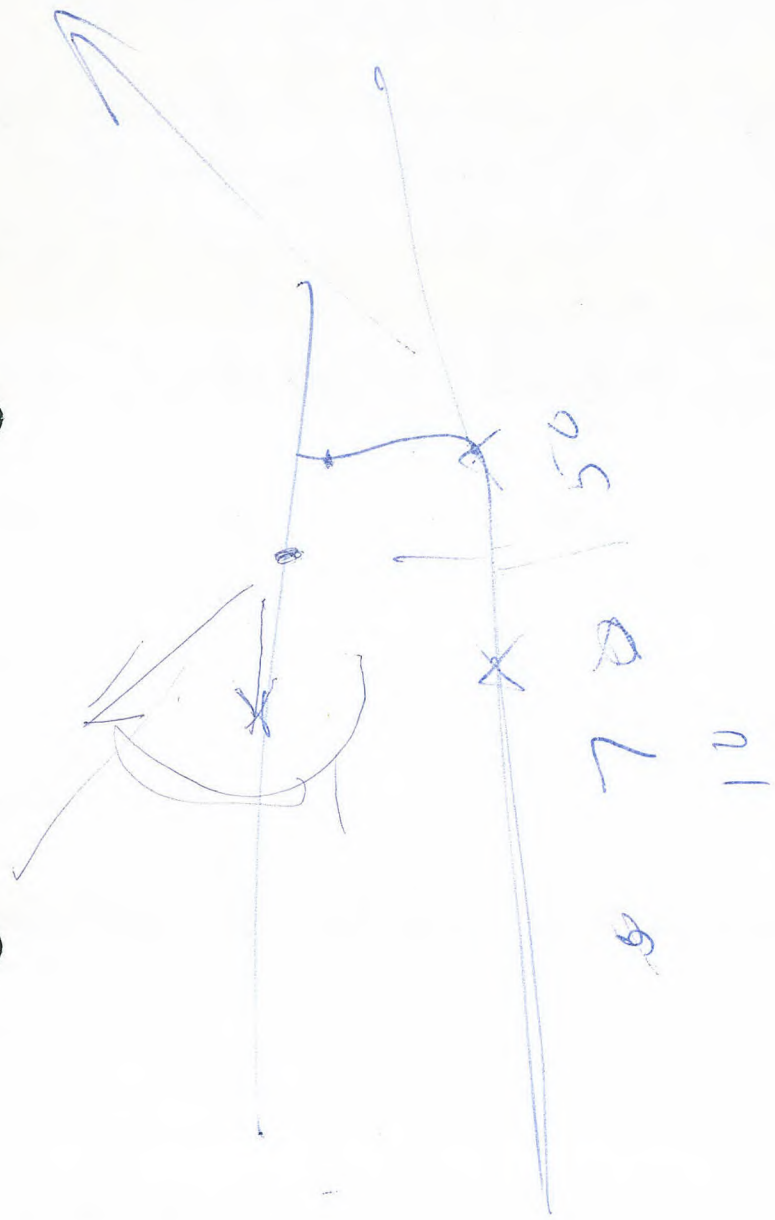
Will (J. J. J.) O.P.H.D.

Gene Green - TOW

Harry W. Ott TOW

Bill Larkin 95th FD

Dennis Cosgrove Wallkill





Town of Wallkill

600 Route 211 East • Middletown, New York 10940



Dennis C. Cosgrove
Supervisor
(914) 692-5811

January 23, 1984

Mr. Albert Klauss
Regional Engineer, Region 3
NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
21 South Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, New York 12561

Dear Al:

re: Town of Wallkill
Washington Heights
Contaminated Wells

Further to our telephone conversation of this morning, I am enclosing the data we discussed in respect to the above.

Should you need anything else, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,
TOWN OF WALLKILL

DENNIS C. COSGROVE
SUPERVISOR

DCC:di
enclosures



COUNTY OF ORANGE / Department of Health

124 MAIN STREET
GOSHEN, NEW YORK 10924 TEL: 914-294-7961

Walter O. Latzko
President, Board of Health

Russell C. Johnson, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

January 25, 1984

Mr. Dennis Cosgrove
Supervisor, Town of Wallkill
600 Route 211 East
Middletown, N.Y. 10940



Dear Supervisor Cosgrove,

Based upon reports of well samples taken by the Orange County Health Department on January 23, 1984, I have condemned the private well at 297 Highland Avenue. I hereby request that the surface water supply from the City of Middletown be extended to supply this residence as soon as possible.

This additional well, polluted at a level hazardous to health, would suggest a spreading of the plume in a westerly direction, such that a water main should extend to Park Avenue on Highland Avenue.

I regret this additional burden upon the Town of Wallkill; however, the handling of the health emergency by N.Y.S.D.E.C. and the U.S.E.P.A. must share the blame for this continuing problem.

It is hoped that the U.S.E.P.A. Superfund will provide the monies for this request.

Sincerely yours,

Russell C. Johnson
Russell C. Johnson, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

CC: Mr. Albert Klauss, N.Y.S.D.E.C.
Mr. L. Marsh, N.Y.S.D.E.C.
Mr. Leo Hetling, N.Y.S.D.O.H.
Mr. Richard Hutchings, Mayor, City of Middletown
Mr. F. Rubel, U.S.E.P.A.
Mr. Louis Heimbach, Orange County Executive
Mrs. Mary McPhillips, Assemblywoman
Mr. William J. Larkin, Jr., Assemblyman

CC: Ms. Ruth Kassel, County Legislator
Ms. Roberta Murphy, County Legislator
Mr. Richard Schermerhorn, State Senator
Hon. Benjamin A. Gilman, Congressman

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Paul Keller | Regional Director | DEC - New Paltz |
| Fred Rubel | U.S. EPA II, Chief E.R. Branch | Edison N.J. |
| John Rankin | Supervisor, Investigations Support Sec., DSHW | DEC ALBANY. |
| Peter Doshua | Sen. San. Eng. | DEC R#3 |
| CESARE MANFREDI | REG WATER Engr | REG 3 |
| Charles Goddard | DEC Albany | |
| LAWRENCE NADLER | DEC Albany | |
| RONALD TRAMONTANO | DOH Albany | |
| Leo Hetling | DOH " | |
| Richard Gardiner | Reg. Solid Waste Engr. | Reg 3 - New Paltz |
| Thomas Merendini | DOH - New Rochelle | |
| Daniel O. Fraser | OE (H) Comm. of Health | |
| Mark Schlipf | OE (H) Asst. " " | |
| George H. Zachos | USGPA | Edison, N.J. |
| John Bee | Weston | Edison N.J. |
| Fred VanAlstyne | DEC - Alb Assoc. Eng. Geologist | |
| George J Shaw Jr | Orange County Health Dept | |
| Albert Klaus | NYSDDEC | |
| Michael J. O'Toole Jr | NYSDDEC | Albany |

Feb 2, 1984 - Wallkill meeting

WILLIAM SAWYER - EPA Regional Counsel - 212-264-4472

George H. Zachos - USEPA Reg. II, Emergency Response Section 201-321-6647

Albert Klawns NYSDEC 914-255-5453

John Rantin NYSDEC 518 4570927

Peter Doshier NYSDEC 914-761-6660

Louis A. Evans NYSDEC 914-761-6660

George J Shaw Jr Orange County Dept Health 914-294-7961

CESARE J MANFREDI NYS DEC 914-761-6660

Paul D. Keller NYS DEC 914 255 5453

Richard A Gardiner NYSDEC 914-255-5453



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II
26 FEDERAL PLAZA
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10278

9 FEB 1984

Rm 403

8:30 AM

CERTIFIED MAIL--
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Walter S. Stern
President
General Switch Co., Inc.
20 Industrial Place
Middletown, New York 10940

Re: Wallkill

Dear Sir:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has documented the release of hazardous substances along or near Highland Avenue in the town of Wallkill, Orange County, New York. In response to the release and the threatened release of hazardous substances at this site, and pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. §9601 et seq. ("CERCLA"), EPA has spent public funds and anticipates that additional public funds may be expended at this site unless General Switch commits to undertake the actions described below.

Under CERCLA, and other laws, responsible parties may be liable for all monies expended by the federal government to take necessary response action at such sites, including investigation, planning, removal, and remedial actions at these sites, and enforcement. Responsible parties under CERCLA include the current and past owner and operator of the facility at which the discharge occurred.

EPA has information that indicates that your company may be a responsible party. Before the government undertakes necessary additional action at the site, we wish to know if your company will voluntarily perform the work required to abate any release or threatened release of hazardous substances, pollutants and contaminants in the area of your facility. For your information, the steps necessary for corrective action in this area include but are not limited to:

1. Initiate by February 29, 1984, the installation of a water supply main on Highland Avenue between Park Avenue and the City of Middletown boundary to the east meeting of specifications approved by the Orange County Department of Health. Provide appropriate

tie-ins complete with meters and necessary plumbing to these developed properties along both sides of Highland Avenue. Pay any tie-in fees as required by the City of Middletown. The water main is to be completed by April 30, 1984 and hookups are to be completed by May 7, 1984.

2. Provide for the sampling and analysis of drinking water at homes which are not served by temporary alternate water supplies or the new water main and which are located in the high risk area identified by the Orange County Department of Health. Such sampling and analysis shall be approved by the government and shall be performed on a periodic basis as required by the Department of Health.
3. Submit, by February 27, 1984, a study plan for government approval to determine the extent of soil contamination and possible remedial work. Initiate by March 7, 1984, sampling and analysis as approved by the government and provide EPA and DEC with a preliminary report of the results by April 7, 1984. A final report of results and a plan for removing said contamination shall be submitted by April 23, 1984.
4. By May 14, 1984, implement the plan approved by the government for the removal or decontamination of the contaminated soil and by June 13, 1984, complete said removal.
5. By May 28, 1984, complete a hydrogeological investigation and implement a groundwater contamination removal/control program approved by the government.

The federal, state or local government may immediately move forward with work unless a responsible corporate official of General Switch obligates the company in writing by February 17, 1984 to undertake the above-described work within the time frames set forth above. (Alternatively, or in addition, the federal government may at a future date decide to order General Switch to perform this work.)

Your letter should indicate the appropriate name, address, and telephone number for further contact with General Switch in addition to a statement of the activities you may be willing to undertake. Where you are already involved in discussions with EPA, State, or local authorities or engaged in voluntary action, you should continue that activity and report the status of those discussions or that action in your letter. Please provide a copy of your letter to any other parties involved in those discussions. Your letter should be sent to:

George Pavlou, Chief
Hazard Assessment Section
Office of Emergency and Remedial Response
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278

If you need further information on the nature and extent or release or threatened release or on our determination that you may be a responsible party, you may contact Mr. Pavlou at (212) 264-0107.

I hope that you will give these matters your immediate attention.

Sincerely yours,

William Librizzi

William Librizzi
Director
Office of Emergency and
Remedial Response

cc: Gene Lucero, Director 302 4814
Office of Waste Programs Enforcement
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Edward A. Kurent, Esq. (EN-329)
Acting Associate Enforcement Counsel - Waste
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

William N. Hedeman, Jr.
Director
Office of Emergency and Remedial Response
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

John Braghirol
Plant Manager
General Switch Co., Inc.
(Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested)

- Contamination Engine
- Remediation
- GAF as Public Water Supply
- Pumping Aquifer is not a ~~the~~ long term solution
- Responsible Party is ~~on~~ probably not the cause
- Still Federal and State Superfund

\$ 3.5×10^6
 10×10^6

Prioritize other sites 3/Fed
 Superfund Management Board
 Investigation 40 State in Reg 3

Remediation

Next year @ best for evaluation

\$100/Year

Orange Handling

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

RECEIVED

FEB 09 1984

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT
REGION #3

POLLUTION REPORT

DATE: January 30, 1984

TO: J. Schafer, EPA
R. Dewling, EPA
W. Librizzi, EPA
F. Rubel, EPA
J. Marshall, EPA
W. Mugdan, EPA
S. Dorrlor, EPA
M. Chivinski, FEMA
N. Nosenchuck, NYSDEC
ERD, EPA Washington
P. Keller, NYSDEC
Andersen, HHS
R. Johnson, OCDOH
D. Cosgrove, Town of Wallkill
Hutchings, City of Middletown

RECEIVED

FEB 9 1984

N.Y.S. D.E.C.
NEW PALTZ

Region II
Emergency Response Branch
Edison, NJ 08837

(201) 321-6670 - Commercial
(201) 548-8730 - 24 Hour Emergency
340-6670 - FTS

POLREP NO.: Eight (8)
INCIDENT NAME: Wallkill, N.Y.
SITE/SPILL NO: A7
POLLUTANT: Tetrachloroethylene
CLASSIFICATION: Medium
SOURCE: Unknown
LOCATION: Wallkill, N.Y.
AMOUNT: Unknown
WATER BODY: Groundwater

1. SITUATION:

A. The transportation of waste from the Parella well by tank truck and disposal into the Wallkill Sewage Treatment Plant has ceased as of December 26, 1983, due to shortage of manpower from the Town of Wallkill and freezing conditions.

B. As of 1/25/84, 292 samples have been collected and analyzed at Wallkill, New York.

C. An additional well at 297 Highland Avenue, Robaina residence, was found to exceed 50 ppb of tetrachloroethylene. Dr. Johnson, Health Commissioner, Orange County Health Department has ordered the Town of Wallkill to extend the emergency temporary water line to their residence.

D. As of January 27, 1984, ninety-five wells has been sampled in the affected area, of these 16 wells were found to have contamination levels between 2 ppb and 260,000 ppb.

E. Samples continue to be collected to determine the extent of groundwater contamination. Samples are also being taken of the Wallkill and Middletown Waste Water Treatment Plants, and Wallkill River to provide baseline data. Samples are being analyzed by on site NYSDEC/DSHW, by gas chromatography.

2. ACTION TAKEN:

A. On January 27, 1984, a CERCLA contract (68-92-0034) was signed with HLF Plumbing to rehabilitate several wells to enable continued sampling of the disconnected wells of residences supplied with temporary city water. This work will enable water level measurement to be taken to assess the effect of pumping of the wells, to determine the interconnection of the wells. In addition, this work will enable future removal of contamination from several wells if necessary. Contractor will restore the property to its original conditions.

B. Work began as of Monday, January 30, 1983, under CERCLA contract 68-92-0034 to extend the temporary water line to the Robaina residence.

C. Financial Status:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Total authorized for mitigation contracts (Trust Fund) | \$ 50,000.00 |
| Expenditures for mitigation contracts | |
| 1.a. Amount obligated to Town of Wallkill (Doc. control# D2D-009) contract no. 68-62-0006 | 20,000.00 |
| 1.b. Estimated expenditures for contract no. 68-62-0006 (D2D-009) | 15,855.02 |
| 1.c. Balance of obligated amount under (D2D-009) contract no. 68-62-0006 | 4,144.98 |
| 2.a. Amount obligated to HLF Plumbing (Doc. control# D2D-010) under contract no. 68-92-0034 | 25,000.00 |
| 2.b. Estimated expenditures to 1/29/84 under control no. 68-92-0034 (D2D- 010) | 0 |
| 2.c. Balance of obligated amount Under contract #68-92-0034 | 25,000.00 |
| Estimated total expenditures of authorized trust fund amounts | 15,855.02 |
| Balance of authorized funding not currently obligated | 5,000.00 |
| Extramural costs (through 1/20/84) | |
| 3.a. TAT special project expenditures (estimated) | 17,500.00 |
| 3.b. TAT, other expenses (salary/travel) | 21,113.29 |
| 3.c. TAT total estimated | \$ 38,613.29 |
| Total expenditures (estimated) | 54,468.31 |

3. FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. Same as previous polreps.

CASE PENDING X

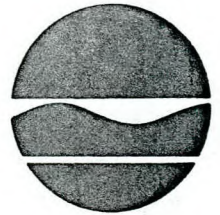
CASE CLOSED _____

SUBMITTED BY

Robert Cobiella
Robert Cobiella, OSC
Emergency Response
Branch

(TAT)

336 025 file



Henry G. Williams
Commissioner

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

21 South Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, New York 12561-1696
(914) 255-5453

February 21, 1984

United States Environmental
Protection Agency
Emergency Response Branch
Edison, NJ 08837

Re: Wallkill Well Contamination

Dear Fred:

The Department has reviewed the issue of discharging the contaminated Wallkill wells into the Middletown sewer system and treatment plant. As you know, our concerns centered around, among other things, the effect of the contamination on the Wallkill River, with its concomitant impact on the Wallkill well system.

Taking into consideration all relevant factors, it is our judgment that the concentration of perchloroethylene should not exceed 40 parts per billion in the effluent of the Middletown Sewage Treatment Plant. This value was arrived at utilizing relatively conservative flow assumptions and, therefore, might be subject to modification if warranted by the future circumstances. In any event, this value should not, per se, preclude pumping as a potential remediation method.

Very truly yours,

Albert Klauss, P.E.
Regional Engineer
Region 3

AK:ls

cc: C. Manfredi
R. Gardineer ✓
M. O'Toole, Div. of Solid and Hazardous Waste
S. Pagano, Division of Water
R. Johnson, Orange County Health Dept.
R. Hutchings, Mayor, Middletown



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II
EDISON, NEW JERSEY 08817

336 025
RECEIVED

FEB 24 1984

N.Y.S. D.E.C.
NEW PALTZ

February 21, 1984

Mr. Albert Klauss, Regional Engineer
New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
21 South Putt Corner
New Paltz, New York, 12561

Dear Mr. Klauss:

Attached please find the results of the samples collected in the affected area of Wallkill, New York from November, 1983 through February 17, 1984. To date, a total of 363 samples have been collected. This sampling program has identified 11 wells with contamination levels ranging between 1 and 50 ppb and an additional 8 wells with contamination levels over 50 ppb. Of these 8, 1 (General Switch) is an industrial well that is not in service.

In the above summary, the Pitt well (Ref. pg. 9) was included in the group with levels ranging between 1 and 50 ppb. The reason is, that although the concentration of one sample was 165 ppb, two later samples did not indicate levels greater than 1 ppb. This data base will be updated on a weekly basis as additional sampling is performed.

Sincerely yours,

George H. Zachos

George Zachos
Emergency Response Section

Attachments



COUNTY OF ORANGE

LOUIS HEIMBACH, County Executive

Department of Health

124 MAIN STREET
GOSHEN, NEW YORK 10924 TEL: 914-294-7961

Walter O. Latzko
President, Board of Health

Russell C. Johnson, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

March 8, 1984

Dennis Cosgrove
Supervisor, Town of Wallkill
Wallkill Town Hall
600 Route 211 East
Middletown, NY 10940

RECEIVED
MAR 09 1984

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT
SECTION #3

MAR 12 1984

N.Y.S.D.E.C.
NEW PALTZ

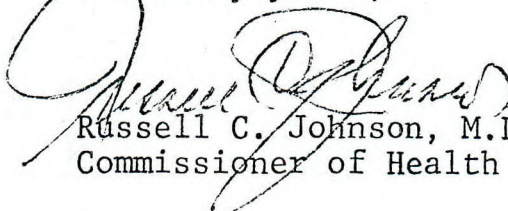
Re: Groundwater Pollution
T. Wallkill

Dear Supervisor Cosgrove:

It is most regrettable that all attempts have ceased to either remove the pollutant or clean up the source since December 23, 1983. As a result, there is a continuing spread of the pollutant in the ground water of the residents of Washington Heights. I have to assume that failure to remove the tetrachloroethylene in the immediate future will cause the pollutant to soon reach other wells.

For that reason, I have made an advisory to all residents using private wells who are within a thousand feet of a contaminated well that they should not use their well water for drinking purposes. I consider supplying water for drinking purposes is an essential part of the health emergency and part of the corrective actions to be taken during the period of developing a water district or hook-ups to an approved source of water.

Sincerely yours,


Russell C. Johnson, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

RCJ/sb

Dennis Cosgrove
March 8, 1984
Page 2

cc: Louis Heimbach, County Executive
James G. Sweeney, Jr., County Attorney
Paul Keller, Region III NYSDEC ✓
Fred Reibel, USEPA
Benjamin Gilman, Congressman
William Larkin, Assemblyman
Ruth Kassel, County Legislator
Roberta Murphy, Chairperson Co. Orange Comm. of
Health and Mental Health
A. De Martino, M.D., Southern Region NYSDOH
Leo Hetling, NYSDOH
M. J. Schleifer, Assist. Comm. of E.H., OCHD
File



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cesare J. Manfredi - Division of Water, Region 3, White Plains
FROM: Peter M. Doshna - Division of Water, Region 3, White Plains
SUBJECT: SOIL SAMPLING FIELD NOTES
TOWN OF WALLKILL WELL CONTAMINATION - 3/23/84
DATE: March 27, 1984

Date: March 23, 1984

DEC Representatives: Peter M. Doshna, P.E., Senior Sanitary Engineer
Fred Woodward, Chemist

Weather: Cold/Cloudy/Light Snow

Soil Sample
Collected By: Fred Woodward

Field Notes
Prepared By: Peter Doshna

On the referenced date, soil samples were collected in the area of Highland Avenue and Industrial Place. Attached are field notes drawn directly from original field notes taken on-site during sample collection.

PMD:bz
Attachments

SAMPLING LOG

Town of Wallkill Well Contamination

3/23/84

| Sample No. | Time | Location |
|------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 84-083-01 | 10:45 AM | Direct line with three utility poles and NW wall of General Switch. 20 paces (P. Doshna at approximately 3 ft./pace) into wooded area on northerly side of Industrial Place. Depth 1 ft. After taking sample, hole began filling with water. |
| 84-083-02 | 11:09 AM | Back yard of Roselli property. 8 ft. from 4 ft. chain link fence and 36 ft. from south corner of property (chain link fence corner). Depth 1 ft. |
| 84-083-03 | 11:24 AM | 30 ft. from NW wall of General Switch in direct line with wall patch and 54 ft. from west corner of building. Depth 1 ft. |
| 84-083-04 | 11:37 AM | 2 ft. 8 in. from NW wall of General Switch at wall patch, 54 ft. from west corner of building. Depth 9 in. |
| 84-083-05 | 11:57 AM | 15 ft. from easterly corner of chain link fence behind Lubricant Packaging (toward railroad tracks). Wind increasing. Depth 1 ft. |

NOTES: All notes are the same as the 3/21/84 Sampling Log.

HIGHLAND AVENUE
630
CITY OF MIDDLE

ELECTRA
MFG CO.

ROSELLI

PARELLA

(W)

(N)

84-083-01

84-081-02

84-083-03

84-083-02

84-081-07

84-083-04

84-081-01

630

PARELLA

84-081-05

84-081-06

84-081-04

INDUSTRIAL PLACE

84-081-08

84-081-03

GENERAL
SWITCH

(E)

(S)

620

INDUSTRIAL PLACE EXT.

LUBRICANTS
INC

EST. 84-083-05

R.P.



COUNTY OF ORANGE

LOUIS HEIMBACH, County Executive

Department of Health

124 MAIN STREET
GOSHEN, NEW YORK 10924 TEL: 914-294-7961

Walter O. Latzko
President, Board of Health

Russell C. Johnson, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

March 26, 1984

RECEIVED

APR 04 1984

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT
REGION #3

Mr. Michael Gurda
Gurda, Gurda & McBride
41 Dolson Avenue- P.O. Box 578
Middletown, N.Y. 10940

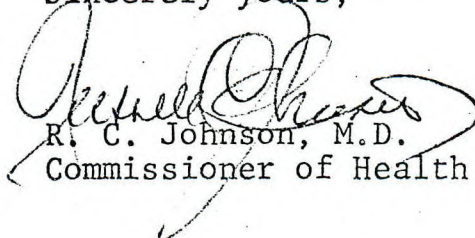
Dear Mr. Gurda:

In an effort to assist in your request for information regarding the Highland Avenue Extension water pollution problem, I suggest that an appointment be made for you or a representative of your office to visit the office of the Health Department to review the files.

The original agreement with N.Y.S.D.E.C. and U.S.E.P.A. was that they would share with the Orange County Health Department information regarding well sample test results and that I would contact the individual residents to inform them of their test results. Therefore our files are primarily internal memos and draft reports. It might be more productive for you to request the information from U.S.E.P.A. before coming to the Health Department in Goshen.

Unfortunately there is insufficient staff to fulfill your request as stated in your letter of March 22, 1984.

Sincerely yours,


R. C. Johnson, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

cc: Fred Rubel, U.S.E.P.A., Region II
Paul Keller, NYSDEC Region III
F. Phillips II, Assist. Co. Attorney
File

RECEIVED

APR 4 1984

N. Y. S. D. E. C.
NEW PALTZ

2/75
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cesare J. Manfredi - Division of Water, Region 3, White Plains
FROM: Peter M. Doshna - Division of Water, Region 3, White Plains
SUBJECT: SOIL SAMPLING FIELD NOTES - TOWN OF WALLKILL WELL CONTAMINATION - 3/21/84
DATE: March 27, 1984

Date: March 21, 1984

DEC Representatives: Peter M. Doshna, P.E. - Senior Sanitary Engineer
Fred Woodward - Chemist

Weather: Cold/Rain

Soil Samples
Collected By: Fred Woodward

Field Notes
Prepared By: Peter Doshna

On the referenced date, soil samples were collected on the property of General Switch and adjoining lands of Parella. Attached are field notes drawn directly from original field notes taken on-site during sample collection.

PMD:bz
Attachments

SAMPLING LOG

Town of Wallkill Well Contamination

3/21/84

| Sample No. | Time | Location |
|------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 84-081-01 | 10:30 AM | Center door on NW side of General Switch; 4 ft. away from building and 6 ft. from edge of door pad. Depth 1 ft. Chemical odor in soil. |
| 84-081-02 | 10:54 AM | 20 ft. away from NW side of General Switch opposite westerly corner door. Depth 1 ft. Started to rain at about 10:50 AM. |
| 84-081-03 | 11:04 AM | South corner of General Switch near truck bay door; 8 ft. from south corner along SE side of building and 8 ft. away from building. Depth 1 ft. |
| 84-081-04 | 11:16 AM | Southwest side wall of General Switch; 38 ft. from south corner and 9 ft. from building. Depth 1 ft. |
| 84-081-05 | 11:32 AM | Southwest side wall of General Switch; 38 ft. from south corner and 24 ft from building in swale. Depth 1 ft. |
| 84-081-06 | 11:40 AM | Southwest side wall of General Switch; 38 ft. from south corner and approximately 50 ft. from building. Sample taken in front of three large trees on Parella's side. By the end of sampling, hole contained standing water. Depth 1 ft. |

SAMPLING LOG

Town of Wallkill Well Contamination

3/21/84

| Sample No. | Time | Location |
|------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 84-081-07 | 11:50 AM | 22 ft. away from SW side wall of General Switch and 14 ft. from west corner along SW side wall. Depth 1 ft. |
| 84-081-08 | 12:04 PM | Approximately 24 ft. away from SW side wall of General Switch at south corner in swale. Depth 1 ft. |

- NOTES: 1) 4" diameter hand auger used to extract soil to 1 ft. depth. Auger marked at 1 ft. and all depths 1 ft. unless otherwise specified.
- 2) 100 ft. Lufkin reel tape used for measurements.
- 3) Distances (except depth) to nearest ft.



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cesare J. Manfredi - Division of Water, Region 3, White Plains
FROM: Peter M. Doshna - Division of Water, Region 3, White Plains
SUBJECT: SOIL SAMPLING FIELD NOTES
TOWN OF WALLKILL WELL CONTAMINATION - 3/23/84
DATE: March 27, 1984

A handwritten signature in dark ink, likely belonging to Peter M. Doshna, located to the right of the memorandum header.

Date: March 23, 1984

DEC Representatives: Peter M. Doshna, P.E., Senior Sanitary Engineer
Fred Woodward, Chemist

Weather: Cold/Cloudy/Light Snow

Soil Sample
Collected By: Fred Woodward

Field Notes
Prepared By: Peter Doshna

On the referenced date, soil samples were collected in the area of Highland Avenue and Industrial Place. Attached are field notes drawn directly from original field notes taken on-site during sample collection.

PMD:bz
Attachments

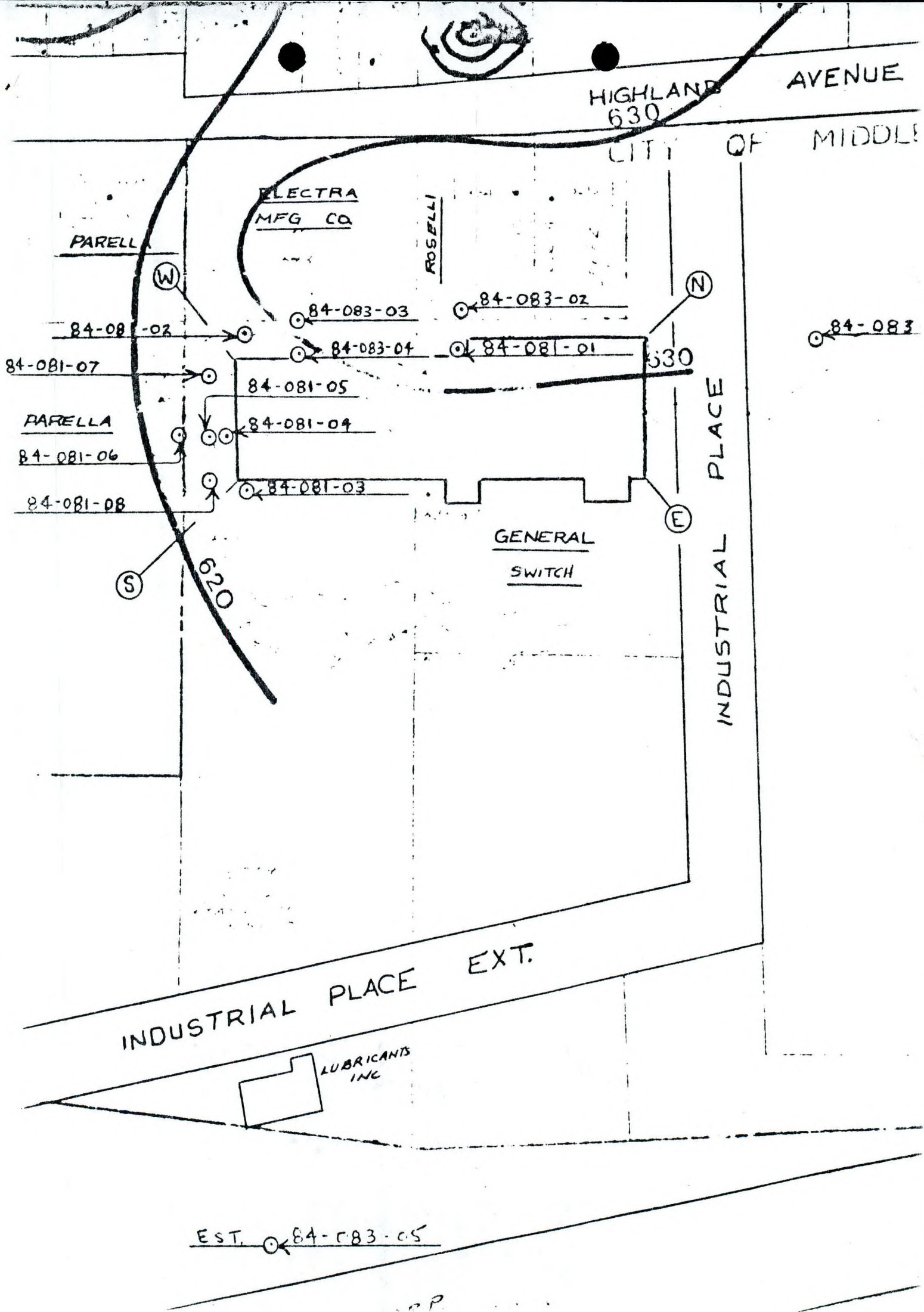
SAMPLING LOG

Town of Wallkill Well Contamination

3/23/84

| Sample No. | Time | Location |
|------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 84-083-01 | 10:45 AM | Direct line with three utility poles and NW wall of General Switch. 20 paces (P. Doshna at approximately 3 ft./pace) into wooded area on northerly side of Industrial Place. Depth 1 ft. After taking sample, hole began filling with water. |
| 84-083-02 | 11:09 AM | Back yard of Roselli property. 8 ft. from 4 ft. chain link fence and 36 ft. from south corner of property (chain link fence corner). Depth 1 ft. |
| 84-083-03 | 11:24 AM | 30 ft. from NW wall of General Switch in direct line with wall patch and 54 ft. from west corner of building. Depth 1 ft. |
| 84-083-04 | 11:37 AM | 2 ft. 8 in. from NW wall of General Switch at wall patch, 54 ft. from west corner of building. Depth 9 in. |
| 84-083-05 | 11:57 AM | 15 ft. from easterly corner of chain link fence behind Lubricant Packaging (toward railroad tracks). Wind increasing. Depth 1 ft. |

NOTES: All notes are the same as the 3/21/84 Sampling Log.





New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cesare J. Manfredi - Division of Water, Region 3, White Plains
FROM: Peter M. Doshna - Division of Water, Region 3, White Plains
SUBJECT: SOIL SAMPLING FIELD NOTES - TOWN OF WALLKILL WELL CONTAMINATION - 3/21/84
DATE: March 27, 1984

Date: March 21, 1984

DEC Representatives: Peter M. Doshna, P.E. - Senior Sanitary Engineer
Fred Woodward - Chemist

Weather: Cold/Rain

Soil Samples
Collected By: Fred Woodward

Field Notes
Prepared By: Peter Doshna

On the referenced date, soil samples were collected on the property of General Switch and adjoining lands of Parella. Attached are field notes drawn directly from original field notes taken on-site during sample collection.

PMD:bz
Attachments

SAMPLING LOG

Town of Wallkill Well Contamination

3/21/84

| Sample No. | Time | Location |
|------------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>84-081-01</u> | 10:30 AM | Center door on NW side of General Switch; 4 ft. away from building and 6 ft. from edge of door pad. Depth 1 ft. Chemical odor in soil. |
| 84-081-02 | 10:54 AM | 20 ft. away from NW side of General Switch opposite westerly corner door. Depth 1 ft. Started to rain at about 10:50 AM. |
| 84-081-03 | 11:04 AM | South corner of General Switch near truck bay door; 8 ft. from south corner along SE side of building and 8 ft. away from building. Depth 1 ft. |
| 84-081-04 | 11:16 AM | Southwest side wall of General Switch; 38 ft. from south corner and 9 ft. from building. Depth 1 ft. |
| <u>84-081-05</u> | 11:32 AM | Southwest side wall of General Switch; 38 ft. from south corner and 24 ft from building in swale. Depth 1 ft. |
| 84-081-06 | 11:40 AM | Southwest side wall of General Switch; 38 ft. from south corner and approximately 50 ft. from building. Sample taken in front of three large trees on Parella's side. By the end of sampling, hole contained standing water. Depth 1 ft. |

SAMPLING LOG

Town of Wallkill Well Contamination

3/21/84

| Sample No. | Time | Location |
|------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 84-081-07 | 11:50 AM | 22 ft. away from SW side wall of General Switch and 14 ft. from west corner along SW side wall. Depth 1 ft. |
| 84-081-08 | 12:04 PM | Approximately 24 ft. away from SW side wall of General Switch at south corner in swale. Depth 1 ft. |

- NOTES: 1) 4" diameter hand auger used to extract soil to 1 ft. depth. Auger marked at 1 ft. and all depths 1 ft. unless otherwise specified.
- 2) 100 ft. Lufkin reel tape used for measurements.
- 3) Distances (except depth) to nearest ft.

CP1-04 = Green alga soil moist

10' to bottom water table

3/28/84

WALKILL - General Switch

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| William Sanger | - EPA | (212) 264- |
| George Pavlou | - EPA | (212) - 264-0106 |
| MATTHIAS SEILFELDER | , ORANGE CA HEALTH | (911) 294-796 |
| George H. Zachos | - EPA Energy Response Branch | (201) 321-6647 |
| Albert Klauss | NYSDEC | 914-255-5453 |
| ROBERT OGG | EPA | 212-264-2647 |
| Walter S. Stern | Gen Switch | 914-842-5801 |
| Grace Goodman | Rosenman, Colin | 212-940-8800 |
| | Freund, Henri | |
| | + Lohr | |
| David Lysch | Fred C. Hart Assoc. | 212 840 3990 |



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II
26 FEDERAL PLAZA
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10278

MAR 28 1984

BY HAND

Grace Goodman, Esq.
Rosenman, Colin, Freund,
Lewis & Cohen
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Re: Wallkill - General Switch

Dear Ms. Goodman:

I enclose a proposed Order (on Consent) to be issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to General Switch.

Please give EPA, by no later than close of business Monday, April 2, 1984, any comments of General Switch on this Order.

Please be advised that EPA will expect to receive on or before April 11, 1984, a detailed work plan for the hydrogeological investigation which shall describe each phase to the maximum extent possible. A Quality Assurance Plan, health and safety plan, and any contingency plans should also be submitted by that date.

We expect that installation of the water main will have commenced by no later than late April.

Sincerely yours,

William K. Sawyer

William K. Sawyer
Attorney
Waste and Toxic Substances Branch
Office of Regional Counsel

Enclosure



LANGDON MARSH
EXECUTIVE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12233-0001

Klaus
Lang. is
committed!
Paul

RECEIVED
APR 03 1984

MAR 30 1984

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT
REGION #3

Dear Ms. Heilfurth:

Thank you for your good letter of March 26, 1984. It was very informative for me to meet with residents of the area at the Goshen forum and learn first hand of your problems.

I will be meeting with Dr. Johnson and the Health Department on April 5 to try to resolve the remaining issues among the various agencies. Please let me know if you do not immediately hear the results of the meeting.

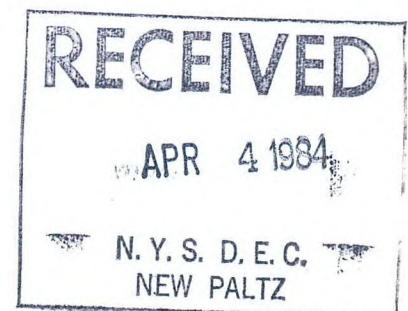
Sincerely,

Langdon Marsh

Langdon Marsh
Executive Deputy Commissioner

Ms. Becky Heilfurth
233 Commonwealth Avenue
Middletown, New York 10940

BC: PAUL KELLER



Becky Heilfurth
233 Commonwealth Ave.
Middletown, N.Y. 10940

Mr. Langdon Marsh
58 Wolf Road
Albany, N.Y. 12248

March 26, 1984

Mr. Marsh:

My name is Becky Heilfurth and I live in Washington Heights Area in the town of Wallkill in the County of Orange. I spoke to you at the Forum in Goshen on March 20, 1984 in reference to the large number of wells contaminated with TETRACHLORETHYLENE.

At the first site the contamination was 290,000 parts per billion, the highest in the State of New York. A safe level was set at 50 parts per billion. The contamination is spreading every day. So the homes with less than the set level and the high risk areas feel helpless. We need the D.E.C. to test our wells until we are able to obtain another means of safe water.

To have the Town of Wallkill's water district the people must vote on it. We must have 51% of the people with 51% of the assessed value. This area has a lot of Senior Citizens and Single Parent households. Must the people have the burden of choosing between economics or safe water?

I would like to know if you were able to set up a meeting - *scheduled for April 5.* with Dr. Axlerod and Dr. Johnson? Because of this problem a lot of the neighbors got together to form a group called (H.A.R.P.) HEIGHTS AREA RESIDENTS AGAINST POLLUTION.

We would like to know the results of this important meeting.

I'am grateful for your time and attention on this matter.

Thank you,

Becky Heilfurth
Becky Heilfurth

RECEIVED
MAR 28 1984
EXECUTIVE
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

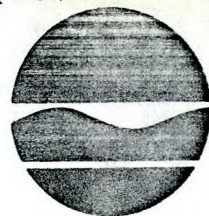
Mtg on Wallkill, NY
4/20/84

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Organization</u> | <u>Telephone #</u> |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| George Parlou | EPA | 212-264-0106 |
| SAWYER | EPA | 212-264-4422 |
| Dave Rogers | EPA | 212-264-4703 |
| Albert Klauss | NYSDEC | 914-255-5453 |
| Louis A. Evans | NYSDEC | 914-781-6660 |
| Dave Lysky | Fred C. Hunt Assoc. | 212-840-3990 |
| MARTIN BAKER | Rosenman Glin et al for General Switch | 212 940-8810 |
| M. J. SCHLEIFER | ORANGE COUNTY | 914-294-7961 |
| James O. Summers | Or. Co. Health Dept | 914-294-7961 |

A. KLAUSS

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

21 South Platt Corners Road
New Paltz, New York 12561-1696
(914) 255-5453



Henry G. Williams
Commissioner

X

May 22, 1984

David Rogers, Project Officer
EPA Hazardous Waste Sites Branch
Room 402
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278

Re: General Switch
T/Wallkill, Site No. 336025

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Attached are this Department's comments on the hydrogeological investigation for the referenced site, as prepared by Fred C. Hart Associates in a report dated May 4, 1984.

Please contact Al Klauss or me should anything further be required.

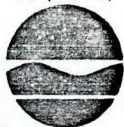
Very truly yours,

William G. Sullivan
Assistant Sanitary Engineer
Region 3

WGS:ls

Attachment

cc: P. Keller
A. Klauss ✓
R. Gardineer



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Dr. Russell Johnson, Commissioner, Orange County Health Department
FROM: Albert Klauss, Regional Engineer *AK*
SUBJECT: Marten's Well Sample Results

DATE: September 21, 1984

Attached for your information and review are the subject results.

AK:ls

Attachment

cc: R. Gardineer

File



COUNTY OF ORANGE

LOUIS HEIMBACH, County Executive

Department of Health

124 MAIN STREET
GOSHEN, NEW YORK 10924 TEL: 914-294-7961

RECEIVED

OCT 24 1984

ADMINISTRATIVE

Walter O. Latzko
President, Board of Health

Russell C. Johnson, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

October 23, 1984

RECEIVED

OCT 24 1984

NYSDEC
New Paltz

Chief, Hazardous Waste Site Branch - USEPA
Office of Emergency and Remedial Response
26 Federal Plaza, Room 402
New York, N.Y. 10278

Att'n: Pat Wells, Project Director

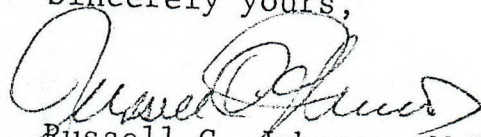
Gentlemen:

I hereby request the wells at the addresses below be included in the next round of sampling:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| 317 Highland Avenue | Knapp |
| 295 " " | Janiak |
| 325 " " | Fiore |
| 355 " " | Pitt |
| 229 Watkins Avenue | Radivoy |
| 187 " " | Rasmussen |
| 239 " " | Wand |
| 34 Park Avenue | Duco |
| 179 Commonwealth Avenue | Reich |
| 211 " " | Norbury |
| 229 " " | Ruppert |
| 231 " " | Brock |

Your assistance in obtaining information as to the status of these wells will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,


Russell C. Johnson, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

RCJ/sb

cc: D. Lipsky, F.C. Hart Assoc.
P. Keller, NYSDEC
A. Reilly, NYSDOH Southern Region
M. J. Schleifer, Assist.Comm.Env.Health, OCHD

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
TRANSMITTAL SLIP

TO: *Anita Grukstas (Rm 223)*

FROM: *Ramchand Pergada*

RE: *Walthall Wells.*

Please review the attached Phase I report by F.C. Hart-Associates, Inc. and return with your comments. ASAP.

DATE: *Nov 9, 84*

ACTION AS INDICATED:
Please Handle

Approval/Signature _____

Prepare Reply for _____

☐ For Your Information

☐ File

☐ Comments

☐ Return to me by _____

Signature _____

FRED C. HART ASSOCIATES, INC.

530 Fifth Avenue • New York, New York 10036 • (212) 840-3990

New York City • Washington D.C. • Pittsburgh • Denver • Las Vegas

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

MEMORANDUM

TO: Peter Doshna - Division of Water, Region 3, White Plains
FROM: Bernard Lohmann - Division of Water, Region 3, New Paltz
SUBJECT: GROUND WATER POLLUTION - MIDDLETOWN (ORANGE COUNTY)

DATE: November 17, 1983

I first investigated the complaint from Mr. Parrella on October 17, 1983. At the time I met Mr. Parrella at the house on 320 Highland Avenue, Middletown, New York, I got the following information from him.

The tenants first complained about an odor in the water over a year ago. The house had no water on September 29, 1983. Mr. Parrella showed me a piece of dissolved PVC pipe. It had a small hole in it (dissolved). The well is 70'-75' deep and the house is served by city sewers.

The Orange County Health Department had done some sampling and Dr. Johnson told the people at 320, 325, 327 and 329 Highland Avenue not to use the water on Friday, October 14th, 1983.

While I was waiting for Armand, George Shaw and Ken Monday arrived at the site. They had the following sampling results on the wells in the area:

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| 304 Highland Ave. | Negative |
| 320 Highland Ave. | 21,000 PPB |
| 321 Highland Ave. | Negative |
| 325 Highland Ave. | Negative |
| 327 Highland Ave. | 1,800 PPB |
| 334 Highland Ave. | Negative |

Armand then sampled the well from 320 Highland Avenue at the pressure tank. I then went to sample the well at 327 Highland Avenue at the kitchen sink.

Armand and I then went to look for the source of the pollution.

11/17/83

General Switch

Located behind 320 Highland Avenue. We talked with John Braghirol, Manager. They use perchloroethylene. We found about a dozen empty fifty-five gallon drums stored outside also a half empty drum of a solvent. Also, Orange County Health Department did their own investigation.

Lubricant Packing & Supply

We talked to Steve Renwick, Manager. They repackage mineral spirits and oils. The ground around the site is saturated with oil - puddles of oil. We were also followed by Orange County Health.

Guild Molder

We talked to Dave Sorencer, Head of Maintenance. No chemical process. They do form work with cooling water discharged to the city sewer. We were followed by Orange County Health.

Orange County Corrigated Box, Inc.

We talked to Sal Pizzi, Chief Manager. They print cardboard boxes. Inks are water based. We were followed by Orange County Health.

Arts Dry Cleaning

Located on 17M about a half mile from the site. They have city water. They use about one 55 gallon drum of perchloroethylene a month.

Prior King Press

230 Watkins Avenue uphill from Highland Avenue. They are a film developer.

11/17/83

Cosmo Optics Inc.

238 Watkins Avenue uphill from Highland Avenue, We talked to Mr. Peter. They use alcohols, acid tone, and tolulene.

We sampled the following locations on October 17, 1983.

#320 Highland Avenue - Mr. Parrella's house, sampled at the pressure tank.

#327 Highland Avenue - Ms. Lobb residence well is 170' deep cased to rock. Sampled cold water tap kitchen sink.

#338 Highland Avenue - Perez residence. Its the house nearest to General Switch. They have city water and a well used for watering the garden. Sampled at spicket for garden hose.

#295 Highland Avenue - Janiak residence. Spot sampled down hill from Parrella residence about 500 feet. Sampled at the kitchen cold water tap.

Prior King Press - sampled cold water tap at film washing tank.

Guild Molders - They have city water and a well; we sampled at the pressure tank.

I did a follow up inspection of General Switch on October 27, 1983. At the time, I got the following information from Mr. John Braghirol, Manager. Mr. Braghirol also went on the inspection with me. The name of the place is:

General Switch Inc.
20 Industrial Place
Box 640
Middletown, New York

General Switch has been there since 1959. General Switch has used Perchloroethylene as a oil stripper since 1975.

They were getting the perchloroethylene in 55 gallon drums up to six months ago. They now get it bulk from:

Baron Blakeslee
86 Cleveland Avenue
Bay Shore, New York 11706

11/17/83

The perchloroethylene is delivered about once a month into a 500 gallon storage tank. The storage tank is located by the last loading dock. The tank is inside the building. There is no pipes on the tank. The perchloroethylene is handled by a valve on the bottom of the tank by hand into a 55 gallon drum. Also, there are no floor drains by the storage tank.

The perchloroethylene is used as a oil stripper. The product is dipped in the perchloroethylene tank prior to being dipped in the paint tank.

The perchloroethylene dip tank is located about 300 feet from the perchloroethylene storage tank. The dip tank is also located in a spill retention area.

The used perchloroethylene is distilled about once a month and the waste is stored in 55 gallon drums. They generate about 10 gallons of waste a month. They are waiting to generate 10 drums so they can have it removed.

The well at General Switch is located about the middle of the building by the parking lot. It is 500 feet deep and runs dry after about twenty minutes of pumping. It is not used. There is a secure cover on the well.

The roof drains from General Switch all run on the ground surface.

I also took two samples at General Switch on October 27, 1983.

The first sample was from the well after it had run for approximately five minutes.

The second sample was a rain puddle by the first loading dock.

Should you have any questions, please let me know.

BL:bz



#336025

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ram Pergadia, Reg. Hazardous Waste Remediation Engineer, Region 3
FROM: Marsden Chen, Bureau of Eastern Remedial Action, DHWR *MC/ysa*
SUBJECT: General Switch Site NY ID No. 336025

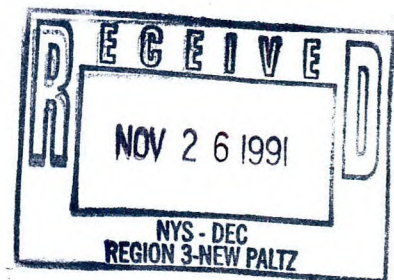
DATE: NOV 25 1991

Attached is the Revised Sampling, Analysis and Monitoring Plan including Pump Test Plan, Quality Assurance/Quality Control Plan and Health and Safety Plan for the General Switch site.

Please have staff review these documents and provide your written comments to Kamal Gupta, of my staff by December 13, 1991.

If you have any questions, Mr. Gupta can be reached at (518) 457-3976.

Attachment



Fred C. Hart Associates, Inc.



May 10, 1989

New York, NY
Albany, NY
Boston, MA
Cherry Hill, NJ
Detroit, MI
Hartford, CT
Irvine, CA
Jacksonville, FL
Liberty Corner, NJ
Pittsburgh, PA
Sacramento, CA
Washington, DC

Chief, Hazardous Waste Site Branch
Office of Emergency and Remedial Response
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
26 Federal Plaza, Suite 402
New York, NY 10278

Attn: Betty Martinovich
Project Officer, Wallkill Site

Re: 4/1/89 - 4/30/89

Dear Ms. Martinovich:

No project activities were conducted during this reporting period.
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

FRED C. HART ASSOCIATES, INC.

Edward J. Kochem
Senior Project Manager

jsw

cc: Director, Division of Solid & Hazardous Waste, NYSDEC
Jim Hardy, NYSDEC
Commissioner of Health, Orange County Dept. of Health
Walter Stern, President, General Switch Corp.
Martin Baker, Esq., Stroock & Stroock & Lavan



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II
26 FEDERAL PLAZA
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10278

APR 05 1989



Mr. Al Klauss, Regional Director
of Environmental Quality
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation
21 S. Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, New York 12561

Re: Wallkill Site (General Switch)

Dear Mr. Klauss:

This letter serves to transmit the latest draft Consent Decree proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") for the above-referenced Site. The enclosed document is subject to further governmental review and subsequent negotiations with General Switch Corporation ("General Switch"); therefore, it is for internal New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) use and distribution only.

As requested by the NYSDOH, the proposed Consent Decree requires remediation of ground water to just below the new New York State MCLs to determine that the cleanup meets the new standards.

Pursuant to an established schedule, EPA anticipates concluding negotiations with General Switch by April 28, 1989. Therefore, we would appreciate your determination regarding the adequacy of the planned remediation, as requested in our March 30 letter, by April 28, 1989.

If you have any questions concerning the proposed remediation, please contact me at (212) 264-6040.

Sincerely yours,

Alison A. Hess
Project Manager

Enclosure

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

POLLUTION REPORT

DATE: February 29, 1984

Region II
Emergency Response Branch
Edison, NJ 08837

(201) 321-6670 - Commercial
(201) 548-8730 - 24 Hour Emergency
340-6670 - FTS

TO: J. Schafer, EPA
R. Dewling, EPA
W. Librizzi, EPA
F. Rubel, EPA
J. Marshall, EPA
W. Mugdan, EPA
S. Dorrlor, EPA
M. Chivinski, FEMA
N. Nosenchuck, NYSDEC
ERD, EPA Washington
P. Keller, NYSDEC
J. Anderson, HHS
R. Johnson, OCDOH
D. Cosgrove, Town of Wallkill
R. Hutching, City of Middletown

POLREP NO.: Twelve (12)
INCIDENT NAME: Wallkill, N.Y.
SITE/SPILL NO: A7
POLLUTANT: Tetrachloroethylene
CLASSIFICATION: Medium
SOURCE: Unknown
LOCATION: Wallkill, N.Y.
AMOUNT: Unknown
WATER BODY: Groundwater

RECEIVED

MAR 08 1984

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
DIVISION OF SOLID AND
HAZARDOUS WASTE

1. SITUATION:

A. On February 7, 1984, a Notice of Violation was sent to the General Switch Co., located on Industrial Place, Middletown, New York. The notice outlined their alleged responsibility for the groundwater contamination, by tetrachloroethylene, on Highland Avenue and the surrounding area.

B. As of February 24, 1984, 398 samples have been collected by U.S. EPA, NYSDEC and OCHD.

C. Two additional private wells, Lewis on 313 Highland and Knapp on 317 Highland Avenue have been found to contain tetrachloroethylene concentrations in the 1 to 50 ppb range. As of February 24, 1984, 100 wells have been sampled in the affected area. Thirteen wells contained tetrachloroethylene levels between 1 and 50 ppb. In this summary, the Pitt well is listed as having concentrations less than 50 ppb. Although the concentration of one sample was 165 ppb, two subsequent samples exhibited concentrations less than 1 ppb.

D. Samples continue to be collected to determine the extent of groundwater contamination. Samples are also being taken from the Wallkill and Middletown Waste Water Treatment Plants, as well as the Wallkill River to provide baseline data. Samples are being analyzed on-site by NYSDEC/DSHW, using gas chromatography.

2. ACTION TAKEN:

A. During the week of February 20 thru 24, 1984, 27 additional samples were collected in the affected area.

B. A drilling and monitoring plan for the hydrogeologic investigation has been forwarded to the NYSDEC on February 27, 1984, for review.

C. On February 17, 1984, the General Switch Co. of Middletown, New York indicated responsiveness in evaluating what action they should undertake for the tetrachloroethylene groundwater contamination problem in the Washington Heights area of the Town of Wallkill.

D. On February 23, 1984, a meeting was held in EPA Region II's Office in New York City to discuss the February 9, 1984 Notice Letter to General Switch. Attending were representatives of General Switch, New York State DEC and EPA.

E. Due to General Switch's response of February 17, 1984, work on Delivery Order No. 6893-02-003 was stopped on February 22, 1984. This step was taken when the company indicated that they intend to cooperate with appropriate agencies and will take appropriate measures to remedy any hazardous condition.

F. Financial Status:

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| i. Total authorized for mitigation contracts (Trust Fund) | \$ 100,000.00 |
| ii. Expenditures for mitigation contracts | |
| 1a. Amount obligated to Town of Wallkill (Doc. control# D2D-009) Contract No. 68-62-0006 | 20,000.00 |
| 1b. Estimated expenditures for Contract No. 68-62-0006 (D2D-009) | 15,855.02 |
| 1c. Balance of obligated amount under (D2D-009) Contract No. 68-62-0006 | 4,144.98 |
| 2a. Amount obligated to HLF Plumbing (Doc. control# D2D-010) under Contract No. 68-92-0034 | 25,000.00 |
| 2b. Estimated expenditures to 2/10/84 under Control No. 68-92-0034 (D2D- 010) | 2,128.00 |
| 2c. Balance of obligated amount Under Contract No. 68-92-0034 | 22,872.00 |
| iii. Unobligated balance remaining for mitigation contracts | 55,000.00 |
| iv. Estimate of Total Expenditures to date for all mitigation. | 17,983.02 |

v. Other extramural costs (through 2/24/84)

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1a. TAT special projects expenditures | 18,509.48 |
| 1b. TAT, other expenses (salary/travel) | 38,841.45 |
| 2. Total, other extramural costs | 57,350.93 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| vi. Total extramural expenditures (Items ii & v) and percentage of \$1,000,000 | 75,333.95 (=7.53% 1M) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|

3. FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. Same as previous polreps.

CASE PENDING X

CASE CLOSED _____

SUBMITTED BY

George H. Zachos

George Zachos OSC,
Emergency Response
Branch

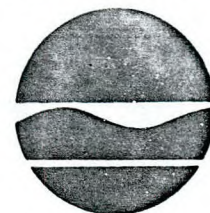
(TAT)

Copy: Commissioner Williams, Commissioner Axelrod - NYSDOH, Dr. D. Carpenter - NYSDOH, R. Tramontano - NYSDOH, Messrs. L. Marsh, N. Robinson, D. Banks, J. Greenthal, D. Barolo, H. Hovey, C. Goddard, D. King, P. Keller

FYI

George H. Zachos

336 025 R. Gardiner
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, N.Y. 12561-1696
(914) 255-5453



Henry G. Williams
Commissioner

January 9, 1984

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Emergency Response Branch
Edison, New Jersey 08837

Attn: Fred Rubel

Dear Fred:

Pursuant to the meeting we attended on January 4th regarding the well contamination in Wallkill, Orange County, N.Y., I am forwarding an overview of NYSDEC's activities to date in this matter.

A. Areawide Investigation To Determine Source of Tetrachloroethylene Contamination

1. On 10/17/83 an areawide survey was initiated in an attempt to identify the source of contamination. Such survey included inspections, sampling, and interviews with private individuals, commercial/industrial establishments, and local officials. The following commercial/industrial establishments have been inspected and sampled where appropriate, and personnel interviewed:

Guild Molders, Inc.
Orange County Corrugated Box, Inc.
Art's Dry Cleaning
Prior King Press
Cosmo Optics Inc.
Pryor Lamps
Mandarin Soy Sauce
International Diesel Electric
Sam E. Fast & Sons, Inc.
Wallace Oil
Continental Telephone
Herzburg Brush

During the course of the survey, Town, City and Police Department officials, citizens and Mr. Parella of 320 Highland Avenue were interviewed with the intent of gathering information pertinent to investigation.

Several chemical suppliers were interviewed in an attempt to identify "Perc" users in the area. Two suppliers were requested to review their records regarding type and quantity of chemical deliveries to Lubricant Packaging and General Switch Co. Particular emphasis was placed on whether either of these company's were "Perc" customers, what the average usage of the

chemical was and whether record review identified any "out of line" deliveries.

Suppliers interviewed and results are as follows:

Baron Blakeslee - ships Perc to General Switch
Guardall Chemical - ships 1, 1, 1, Trichloroethane to
Lubricant Packaging
Duso Chemical - No accounts in subject area

During the course of the inspection phase of the investigation, selected sampling locations were identified. Such sampling has included private wells (residential/commercial/industrial), municipal sanitary sewers, sewage treatment plants, the Monhagen Brook, the Wallkill River, industrial discharges and soils sampling.

2. Site Specific Activities

Three different metal detection units were utilized in the vicinity of the General Switch Co. and the Parella property. Positive readouts were identified at several locations on the Parella property and at the periphery of the General Switch Co. Parking Lot. A wooded area directly opposite Lubricant Packaging and to the rear of the Parella property was investigated.

General Switch and Lubricant Packaging were selected for special attention. Additional inspections, interviews and sampling at both sites were performed. Particular emphasis was placed on soils sampling and comprehensive review of both company's operation. Soils sampling of the wooded area and the Parella property was also performed.

One point source (Guild Moulders, Inc.) was found during the survey. The company has been sampled and advised to file for a discharge permit. The company, however, does not use Tetrachloroethylene.

3. Conclusion

It is felt that while all activities to date have not pinpointed the source of contamination, such activities have defined a candidate area for further investigation.

- B. Considerable additional effort was expended gathering information regarding the potential use of an activated carbon system to treat the contaminated water before it might be discharged to a sewer system. This involved about three days effort, including review of literature and our own experiences with activated

carbon treatment in New York State. It also included contacts with Calgon Corporation, which sells and leases commercial activated carbon treatment systems. Calgon was able to provide the Department with cost estimates for carbon treatment systems, based on the technical data and specifications provided by the Department.

After the decision was made to try and pump the Parella well and convey the wastewater to the Wallkill sewer system, NYSDEC staff reviewed the monitoring data for the Wallkill system to track the effectiveness of this system for removing tetra-chloroethylene.

Additionally, as you know various NYSDEC staff members (Central Office and Regional) have attended all applicable meetings pertaining to this incident.

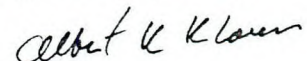
C. Cummulative Expenses

NYSDEC expenditures of resources; to date, break down as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Investigation and Sampling | 338 m hr. |
| Analytical Services | 225 m hr. |
| Technical Support | 22 m hr. |
| Hydrogeological Support | 45 m hr. |
| Executive Direction | 100 m hr. |

If you desire any further information please let me know.

Very truly yours,



Albert Klauss
Regional Engineer
Region 3

AK/di

cc: D. O'Toole
D. Barolo
C. Manfredi
R. Gardineer ✓
L. Nadler
C. Goddard
F. Van Alstyne



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

MEMORANDUM

RECEIVED

TO: Peter Doshna, Region 3
FROM: Fred Woodward, Investigation Support Section
SUBJECT: Wallkill Soil Sample Results
DATE: June 4, 1984

JUN -7 1984

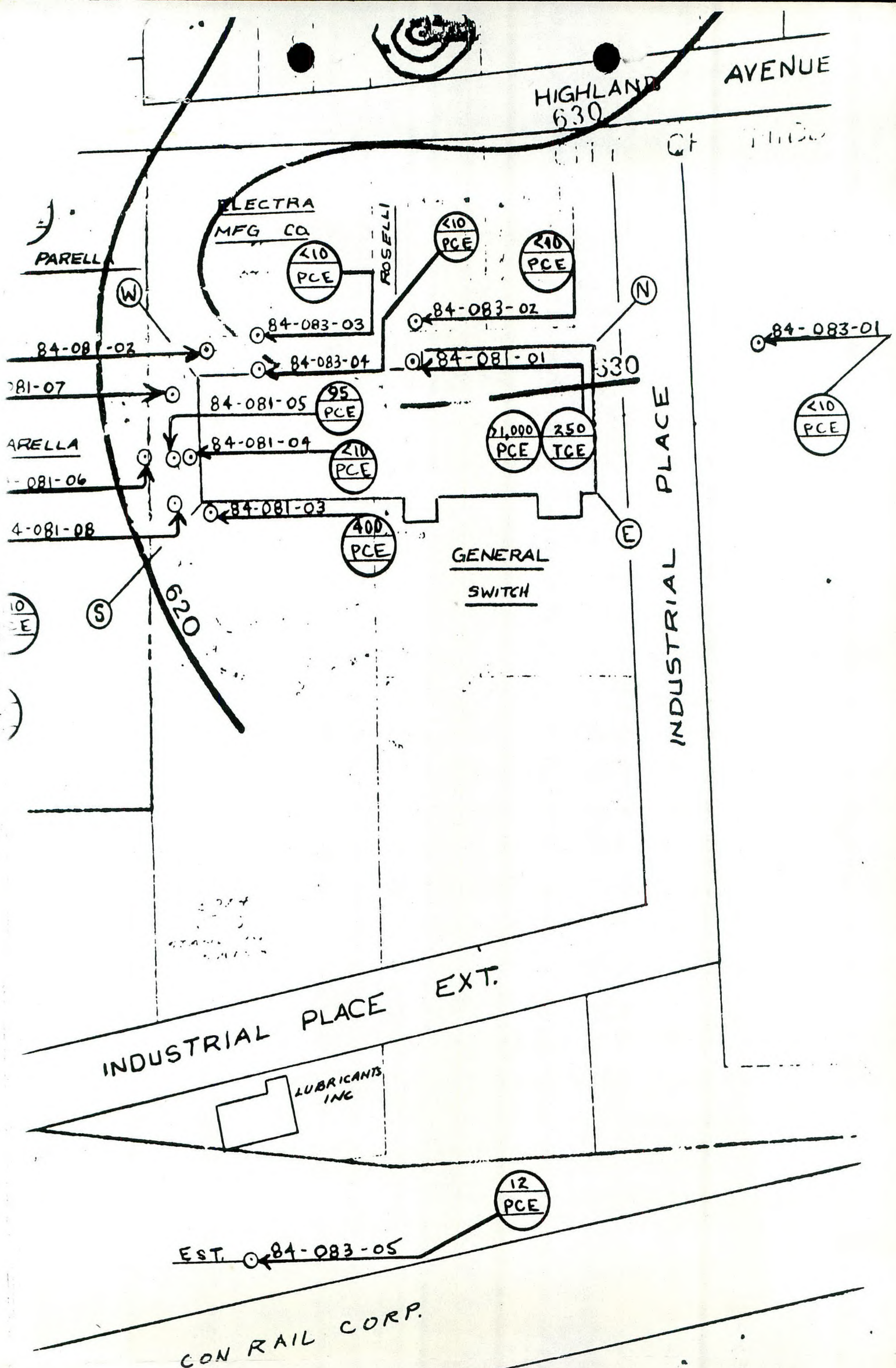
NYSDEC
WHITE PLAINS

The results of the March 21 and March 23, 1984 soil samples collected in the Highland Avenue area in the Town of Wallkill are as follows:

| <u>Sample Number</u> | <u>Sampling Location</u> | <u>Tetrachloroethylene ug/gm</u> |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 84-081-01 | Please refer to original sampling notes | 1,000 |
| 84-081-02 | | 10 |
| 84-081-03 | | 400 |
| 84-081-04 | | 10 |
| 84-081-05 | | 95 |
| 84-081-06 | | 10 |
| 84-081-07 | | 10 |
| 84-081-08 | | 10 |
| 84-083-01 | | 10 |
| 84-083-02 | | 10 |
| 84-083-03 | | 10 |
| 84-083-04 | | 10 |
| 84-083-05 | | 12 |

If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to call.

FW/dc



Series 84-081 taken 3/21/84.

Series 84-083 taken 3/23/84

ALL
RESULTS
IN
PPM



COUNTY OF ORANGE

LOUIS HEIMBACH, County Executive

Department of Health

124 MAIN STREET
GOSHEN, NEW YORK 10924 TEL: 914-294-7961

Walter O. Latzko
President, Board of Health

Russell C. Johnson, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

April 3, 1984

William K. Sawyer, Esq.
Waste and Toxic Substances Branch
Office of Regional Counsel
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region II
26 Federal Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10278

RECEIVED

APR 4 1984

N. Y. S. D. E. C.
NEW PALTZ

Dear Mr. Sawyer:

Pursuant to our recent phone conversation on April 2, 1984 regarding the Administrative Order of Consent in the matter of General Switch Corporation, I am confirming in writing my suggested changes and additions. They are as follows:

On Page 6, subparagraph C.1 - The last sentence in parenthesis should have added the words "and the Orange County Health Department" after the word "Town".

On Page 6, subparagraph C.3 - The last sentence might be terminated after the phrase "... of any tie-in fees required". By deleting these words "... by the Town of Wallkill" it prevents any misunderstandings as to who is requiring the tie-in fees; the City of Middletown or the Town of Wallkill and also precludes a determination as to which community will be supplying the data.

On Page 9, subparagraph E - It is requested that a copy of each submittal, especially those relating to water samples be sent to:

Commissioner of Health
Orange County Dept. of Health
124 Main Street
Goshen, N.Y. 10924

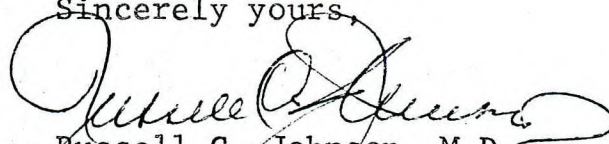
On Page 10, subparagraph F - I would suggest that the Orange County Health Department be included as providing samples for analysis for a twenty-four hour turn around in

William K. Sawyer, Esq.
April 3, 1984
Page 2

receiving results. This is considered necessary to assure recent sample results for determining the level of health emergency.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments at this time. I look forward to more regular communication with your office.

Sincerely yours,



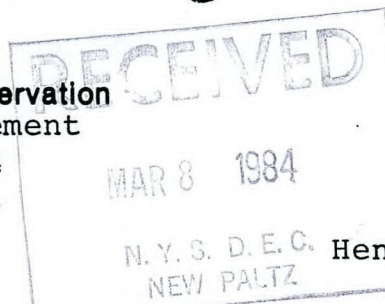
Russell C. Johnson, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

RCJ/sb

cc: Mr. George Zachos, U.S.E.P.A.
Mr. Al Klauss, NYS DEC
Mr. Leo Hetling, NYS DOH
Mr. Matthias J. Schleifer, OCHD

Al Klaus

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Enforcement
202 Mamaroneck Avenue Room 304
White Plains, N.Y. 10601-5381



Henry G. Williams
Commissioner

March 5, 1984

Martin S. Baker, Esq.
Rosenman Colin Freund Lewis & Cohen
575 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10017

Re: General Switch Corporation

Dear Mr. Baker:

As per our discussion at the USEPA Offices on February 23, enclosed please find the results of analyses of soil sampling conducted by this Department at the General Switch property during the fall of 1983.

The results of the samples found on the computer printout sheets should be self-explanatory as to the particular locations within the property from which these samples were taken.

As to the samples on the form from the "Mobile Laboratory," following is a description of the sampling locations:

1) The samples numbered "83-341-01" were taken from the swale between the General Switch building and the Parrella property. The depth of the sampling was, respectively, surface level, one foot below surface, and two feet below surface, as indicated in the first three columns.

2) The sample numbered "83-341-02" was taken from a location directly opposite the center loading dock, at the base of the parking lot fill area, at a depth of two to two-and-a-half feet below surface.

3) The sample numbered "83-341-03" was taken from a location directly opposite the truck bay, at the base of the parking lot fill area, at surface level.

If you have any questions concerning these results, please do not hesitate to call me at (914) 761-6660.

Very truly yours,
Louis A. Evans
Louis A. Evans
Attorney

cc: William Sawyer, Esq.

TELEPHONE (212) 940-8800
CABLE ROCOKAY NEWYORK
TELECOPIER (212) 940-8776
(212) 935-0679
TELEX 427571 ROSCOL (ITT)
971520 RCFLC NYK (W. U.)
AUX. NO. 236241 ROSCOL UR (RCA)

SA Klaus
ROSENMAN COLIN FREUND LEWIS & COHEN

575 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1300 19TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036
TELEPHONE (202) 463-7177

CALIFORNIA OFFICE
100 PINE STREET
SUITE 1700
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94111
TELEPHONE (415) 434-4641

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NUMBER

(212) 940-8707

September 14, 1984

Richard A. Hutchings, Mayor
City of Middletown
16 James Street
Middletown, NY 10940

Alfred A. Fusco, Jr., P.E.
Commissioner of Public Works
City of Middletown
16 James Street
Middletown, NY 10940

RECEIVED

SEP 18 1984

NYSDEC
New Patz

Re: General Switch Corp. Interim Pumping Test

Dear Mr. Hutchings and Mr. Fusco:

We are the attorneys for General Switch Corporation ("General Switch"), a major taxpayer and employer in the City of Middletown. General Switch is presently complying with an Administrative Order on Consent from the federal Environmental Protection Agency ("the Order") relating to polychloroethylene ("PCE") contamination in the vicinity of General Switch's plant.

Pursuant to Section III of the Order, General Switch is required to conduct Interim Pumping Tests from a limited number of wells in its vicinity, for the purpose of learning whether such pumping would be effective to (a) remove contaminated groundwater from the geologic formations in the area and/or (b) prevent further migration of PCE contamination in the groundwater.

Fred C. Hart Associates ("Hart Associates"), an environmental engineering firm retained by General Switch for this purpose, has developed a proposal for this Interim Pumping Test; the proposal has been approved by the EPA.

RECEIVED

SEP 17 1984

Richard A. Hutchings, Mayor

Alfred A. Fusco, Jr., P.E.

Page 2

September 14, 1984

The proposal, in brief, calls for controlled pumping over a four to six week period from four wells, three on Highland Avenue and one on General Switch's property on Industrial Avenue. The water pumped from these wells would, under this approved proposal, be monitored and then discharged directly into the sewers serving these properties, which feed into the Middletown sewage system.

We understand that the Middletown Common Council under the facts then available to it, denied permission to discharge the Pumping Test water into the Middletown sewage system.

By this letter, General Switch requests reconsideration in light of the following facts, which we believe have not previously been before you.

Impact Analysis

Hart Associates has analyzed the EPA's prior experience with contaminated water pumped from one of these wells last winter. It further analyzed the potential discharges from the four wells as they would be handled under present conditions in the Middletown system. Finally, it has analyzed the effect of dilution of the outflow in the downstream waterways. This three-part analysis had led to the conclusion that the impact of the Interim Pumping Test water in and after it leaves the Middletown system would be such as to create no hazard to Middletown or to any downstream user.

In brief, the analysis includes the following:

(a) In November and December 1983, the EPA's Technical Assistance Team pumped contaminated water from the Parella well (one of the four wells proposed to be pumped in the Plan).

Measurements were taken from the point of discharge and at the treatment plant's influent and effluent streams. These measurements showed that the average influent concentration of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) was 29 parts per billion ("ppb"), which was below the New York Department of Health's suggested maximum of 50 ppb. The treatment plant effectively removed 83-87% of the PCE, leaving only 5 ppb on the average in the

Richard A. Hutchings, Mayor
Alfred A. Fusco, Jr., P.E.
Page 3
September 14, 1984

effluent. This level was achieved when the Parella well pumping discharge amounted to approximately 0.05% of the treatment plant's daily flow.

(b) Estimates of the amount of water to be pumped from the four test wells show that it would constitute approximately 0.135% of the total daily flow at the Middletown Sewage Treatment Plant ("STP"). The "worst-case" level of contamination in the influent from these four wells is estimated to be no more than 53 ppb. If the Middletown STP removes only 80% of the PCE (a conservative estimate, less than the percentage in the prior experience), the anticipated effluent concentrations would be 10.6 ppb, well below the health standard maximum of 50 ppb.

(c) Assuming an outflow in which the PCE concentration was 10.6 ppb, at the normal 7 mgd outflow rate, and assuming an average flow of 7700 cfs (cubic feet per second) in the waterways into which the effluent is discharged from the STP, the PCE concentration in the water at the time it reached the nearest intake source would be no more than 0.015 ppb, so far below any standard for safety as to constitute no measurable hazard to any user of this water.

Dr. Russell Johnson, Commissioner of the Orange County Department of Health, has instructed General Switch that the Interim Pumping Test must begin at the earliest possible date in order to alleviate the PCE contamination and prevent its spread beyond the immediate vicinity. Dr. Johnson has further told us that he is prepared to meet with the City of Middletown if necessary to expedite this matter. General Switch is prepared to authorize Hart Associates to start the Test as soon as the City of Middletown gives its permission.

We would be happy to provide any additional information you may require, or to meet with you to discuss this matter further at any mutually convenient time. Our engineers are also available to meet with your technical personnel if you feel such a meeting would be helpful. We would appreciate

Richard A. Hutchings, Mayor
Alfred A. Fusco, Jr., P.E.
Page 4
September 14, 1984

hearing from you at your earliest convenience as to how we can best resolve this urgent problem.

Very truly yours,



Grace Goodman

GG/ks

cc: W.K. Sawyer, Esq., EPA
Louis Evans, Esq., DEC ✓
Dr. Russell Johnson, OCDH
Walter Stern, General Switch

RECEIVED
RECEIVED

JUN 26 1984
JUN 27 1984

NYSDC
New Paltz

FILE COPY

General Switch Corporation

Middletown, New York

Monthly Periodic Progress Report

5/1/84 - 5/31/84

NHN
Copy H30T
CN6
336025
P. Keller
A. Williams
P. Williams
Rich
B.11.5

Work Efforts Completed to Date

An Administrative Order on Consent was issued to General Switch on May 1, 1984. Activities conducted on behalf of General Switch by Fred C. Hart Associates (FCHA) in compliance with the order are listed below referenced to the appropriate section:

Section IA. A plan to insure the provision of alternate domestic water on a temporary basis to residents of the Washington Heights Area where wells are contaminated by tetrachloroethylene (PCE) at or above the 50 ppb limit adopted by the New York State Department of Health was submitted on May 8, 1984. Oral comments to the plan were received on May 21, followed by formal written comments on May 23, 1984. General Switch accepted the comments, and the plan was modified and resubmitted on May 31, 1984. The temporary water system is already in place, with water being provided to the following residents:

- #297 Highland Avenue - Robanna
- #307 Highland Avenue - Ruppert
- #309 Highland Avenue - Barry
- #316 Highland Avenue - Stout
- #320 Highland Avenue - Parella
- #327 Highland Avenue - Lobb
- #329 Highland Avenue - Osborne

Section IB. A plan for Interim Monitoring of wells determined by the Orange County Department of Health (OCDH) to be in danger of becoming contaminated by PCE was submitted to EPA on May 8, 1984. FCHA met with OCDH on May 11. A suggested list of 25 wells to be sampled was submitted on May 16. On May 22, FCHA met with representatives of EPA to obtain specific information on wells in the Wallkill area. In its formal comments on the Interim Monitoring Plan (May 23, 1984), EPA revised the suggested list and increased the number of wells to 26. General Switch accepted the comments and resubmitted the plan on May 31, 1984. Preparations were immediately begun to implement the plan.

Section IC. A plan containing design requirements for provision of drinking water on a permanent basis to the homes listed in Section IA above was submitted to EPA on May 15, 1984.

Section IIA. A Site Operations Plan for a Phase I Hydrogeological Investigation was submitted to EPA on May 4, 1984. Initial oral comments were received on May 30 and 31, 1984.

Section IVA. A quality assurance plan for the Hydrogeologic Investigation and Interim Monitoring Plan was submitted concurrent with the Site Operations Plan on May 4, 1984.

Section VA. Dr. David C. Lipsky of FCHA was designated Work Coordinator on May 9, 1984.

FILE COPY

General Switch Corporation

Middletown, New York

Monthly Periodic Progress Report

5/1/84 - 5/31/84

RECEIVED 3

JUN 27 1984

Work Efforts Completed to Date

NYSD:G
New Patz

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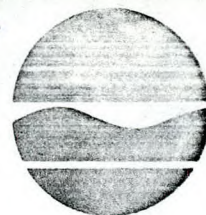
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Section VA. Dr. David C. Lipsky of FCHA was designated Work Coordinator on May 9, 1984.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

21 South Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, NY 12561-1696
914/255-5453

R. J. Jandrew
336 025



Henry G. Williams
Commissioner

May 23, 1984

RECEIVED

MAY 24 1984

NYSDEC
New Paltz

United States Environmental
Protection Agency
Emergency Response Branch
Edison, NJ 08837

Attention: Fred Rubel

Dear Fred:

Pursuant to your request, I have compiled the investigative actions undertaken by the DEC which culminated the belief the General Switch Co. might be a source of the contamination in Wallkill, NY. At the outset, an areawide survey was initiated in an attempt to identify the source of the perchloroethylene contamination. The survey included inspections, sampling, and interviews with private individuals, commercial/industrial establishments, and local officials. The following commercial/industrial establishments were inspected and sampled where appropriate.

Guild Molders, Inc.
Orange County Corrugated Box, Inc.
Art's Dry Cleaning
Prior King Press
Cosmo Optics Inc.
Pryor Lamps
Mandarin Soy Sauce
International Diesel Electric
Sam E. Fast & Sons, Inc.
Wallace Oil
Continental Telephone
Herzburg Brush

During the course of the survey, Town, City and Police Department officials, citizens and Mr. Parella of 320 Highland Avenue, were interviewed with the intent of gathering information pertinent to investigation.

Several chemical suppliers were interviewed in an attempt to identify "Perc" users in the area. Two suppliers were requested to review their records regarding type and quantity of chemical deliveries to Lubricant Packaging and General Switch Co. Particular emphasis was placed on whether either of these company's were "Perc" customers, what the average usage of the chemical was and whether record review identified any "out of line" deliveries.

Suppliers interviewed and results are as follows:

1. Baron Blakeslee - ships Perc to General Switch
2. Guardall Chemical - ships 1, 1, 1, Trichloroethene to Lubricant Packaging
3. Duso Chemical - No accounts in subject area.

During the course of the facility inspection phase of the investigation, selected sampling was performed. Such sampling has included private wells (residential/commercial/industrial), municipal sanitary sewers, sewage treatment plants, the Monhagen Brook, the Wallkill River, industrial discharges and soils sampling.

Three different metal detection units were utilized in the vicinity of the General Switch Co. and the Parella property. Positive readouts were observed at several locations on the Parella property and at the periphery of the General Switch Co. parking lot. A wooded area directly opposite Lubricant Packaging and to the rear of the Parella property was investigated.

General Switch and Lubricant Packaging were selected for special attention. Additional inspections, interviews and sampling at both sites were performed. Particular emphasis was placed on soils sampling and comprehensive review of both company's operation. Soils sampling of the wooded area and the Parella property was also performed.

In January of this year, an extensive investigation to determine the source of perchloroethylene detected earlier in the Middletown sewer system, was initiated. A dye was introduced at various points and its paths were traced with samples taken as it traversed the affected area. An analysis of the data indicated the contamination was introduced into the sewer system in the vicinity of the General Switch Co. While the data could not be said to be conclusive, it did in the Department's opinion, suggest potential involvement on the part of General Switch.

Fred Rubel
Page Three
May 23, 1984

The results of earlier soil samples taken on the General Switch property, were then received from the laboratory. they indicated the soil at shallow depths was contaminated with perchloroethylene. It was at this point the decision was made to consider the company a possible source of the contamination. Additional sampling was conducted the week of March 19, 1984. The results of these analyses are attached. They are not official at this time and therefore should not be made available outside your agency.

Very truly yours,

Albert K. Klauss

Albert K. Klauss
Regional Engineer
Region 3

AKK:mv
Enclosure

cc: P. Keller
L. Evans (DEC White Plains)
M. O'Toole
C. Manfredi
R. Gardineer ✓
W. Sawyer (USEPA Federal Plaza)
G. Zaches

bcc: Commissioner Williams
L. Marsh
D. Grant
N. Nosenchuck (2)
D. Barolo
P. Keller, Region 3, New Paltz
C. Goddard
C. Manfredi, Region 3, White Plains
T. Reynolds
R. Tramontano, DOH
F. Rubel, EPA, Region II

RECEIVED

NOV 15 1983

REGIONAL UNIT
#3

RECEIVED

NOV 17 1983

N. Y. S. D. E. C.
NEW PALTZ

NOV 9 1983

Dear Ms. Schafer:

It has been brought to my attention that high levels of tetrachloroethylene have been detected in two private wells in a densely populated area within the Town of Wallkill, Orange County, New York. The problem was detected through inspection of a pump where it was discovered that seals had deteriorated, causing failure.

The owner of the property had his well privately tested and contacted the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Orange County Health Department upon reviewing the laboratory results. On October 17-18, 1983, representatives of the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water, Region 3, sampled the well in question and one directly across the street. Levels of tetrachloroethylene were 120,000 and 2,500 ppb, respectively.

The Region 3 office has indicated a potential source for contamination approximately 300 feet from the wells. A plant inspection has been performed and an obvious explanation for observed levels of tetrachloroethylene was not found.

Contact has been made with Fred Rubel, Chief of the Emergency Response and Hazardous Materials Inspection Branch, for emergency response under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA). Our request for emergency response assistance was made because of the level of tetrachloroethylene detected, the close vicinity of other homes and the local geology in the area of the wells. According to bedrock maps developed by the New York State Geological Survey, local bedrock is predominantly shale and sandstone, each expected to exhibit extensive fracturing resulting in significant secondary permeability.

Since this situation was recently discovered, it does not appear on the National Priorities List. Due to the gross contamination levels and the known impact on water supplies, I ask that you consider this site eligible under CERCLA as an emergency removal action. The anticipated response would likely include the installation of sampling wells, determination of the feasibility of recovering a slug of tetrachloroethylene and installation of water treatment devices for the affected wells.

I look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,

Henry G. Williams
Henry G. Williams

Ms. Jacqueline E. Schafer
Regional Administrator
United States Environmental
Protection Agency
Region II
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278



FILE COPY

IMPORTANT

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

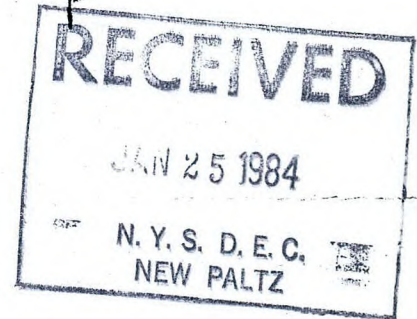
REGION II
26 FEDERAL PLAZA
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10278

NIN
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MSOT
CP6
A. Klaus, Reg. 3

MSOT -
pls. handle

January 13, 1984

Mr. Norman Nosenchuck, P.E., Director
Division of Solid & Hazardous Waste
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, New York 12233



Dear Norm:

I am writing to review the status of activities by our respective agencies at Wallkill, New York. The latest meeting on this was on January 4, 1984. At that meeting NYSDEC committed to providing a dedicated analytical capability, which would arrive on site on January 9, 1984. Also, NYSDEC will initiate an analysis of past aerial photographs as part of its source investigation. We are also interested in receiving a preliminary report of your source investigation thus far.

We are continuing to pump the Parella well (the most contaminated well) to the Wallkill STP, and are conducting other activities to define the plume. Our Deputy Regional Administrator, Dick Dewling, has discussed the progress to date at this site with your Deputy Commissioner, Langdon Marsh. We believe that a longer term strategy must be developed so that EPA may conclude its immediate removal activities with the state having an adequate and timely "follow-on" in place. More specifically, this longer term strategy should address the monitoring of water supply wells potentially at risk, continuation of any further geological investigation required subsequent to what EPA completes (we expect to complete our subsurface work by March 1984), and a guarantee that if for any reason the town or county fails to provide the tie-ins to any water main that EPA might provide, then NYS would take steps to get tie-ins accomplished.

In regard to the installation of a water main, we would, if this step is taken, solicit the cooperation and front-end commitment from the town to provide the tie-ins. I look forward to a positive reply.

Sincerely yours,

William J. Librizzi

(for) William J. Librizzi, Director
Office of Emergency and Remedial Response

RECEIVED

JAN 19 1984

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
DIVISION OF SOLID AND
HAZARDOUS WASTE

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
REGION 3
DIVISION OF SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE
21 SOUTH PUTT CORNERS ROAD
NEW PALTZ, NY 12561
914-255-5453

RECEIVED

NOV 17 1983

N. Y. S. D. E. C.
NEW PALTZ

NOV 15 1983

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT
REGION #3

SPEED MEMO

TO:

PAUL Keller
Cesar Manfredi
Al Klaus

DATE:

11/15/83

SUBJECT:

Groundwater Contam.
Wallkill CN

FROM:

Rich Gardiner

I talked with Mike O'Toole on
11/14/83. This is the only information
pages (attached) that has been prepared
for the Commission by the Central Office

(12/75)

To: Rich Gardiner
From: Mike O'Toole

(F)

H. O'Toole

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

MEMORANDUM

Commissioner Williams, through Drayton Grant, Deputy Commissioner
Norman H. Nosenchuck, Director, Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste
Tetrachloroethylene Contamination, Wallkill, New York

NOV 04 1983

This morning, it was brought to our attention by Mr. Cesare Manfredi, Division of Water, Region 3, that high levels of tetrachloroethylene have been detected in two private wells in the Town of Wallkill, New York. The problem was originally detected when a local plumber was called to determine why a pump had failed. Upon inspection of the pump, it was discovered seals had disintegrated.

The home owner reported the problem to the Division of Water who initiated sampling of this and the home well directly across the street. Levels of tetrachloroethylene were 29,000 and 1,800 ppb, respectively. Recent resampling has shown a change in levels to 120,000 and 2,500 ppb, respectively. There has been sampling done by the Health Department also, but those results were not available.

The Division of Water has indicated that a potential source of contamination is General Switch, a small company approximately three hundred (300) feet from the compromised wells. A plant inspection has been performed. There is an in-plant five hundred (500) gallon tetrachloroethylene storage tank with above-ground plumbing, all in relatively good condition. The only visible problem was the absence of a solvent recovery system. The tetrachloroethylene is air stripped and passed out through ceiling vents. This violation of air standards has been reported to the Division of Air. The possibility of precipitation stripping of solvents as a source of observed contamination in the private wells was evaluated and found improbable.

Mr. Cesare Manfredi contacted the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste to inquire what emergency response options were available through Federal/State Superfund programs.

Contact has been made with Fred Rubel of Region II United States Environmental Protection Agency office, who is following up options under Federal Superfund with Mr. Manfredi. We will continue to follow and support actions under that direction.

cc: L. Marsh
D. Grant

TRR:cl

bcc: N. Nosenchuck
M. O'Toole
P. Keller, Region 3
C. Goddard
C. Manfredi, Region 3
D. Fleury
T. Reynolds



RECEIVED

NOV 15 1983

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT
REGION #3

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

MEMORANDUM

RECEIVED

NOV 17 1983

N. Y. S. D. E. C.

NEW PALTZ

TO: Commissioner Williams, through Drayton Grant, Deputy Commissioner
 FROM: Norman H. Nosenchuck, Director, Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste
 SUBJECT: Tetrachloroethylene Contamination, Wallkill, New York

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 D. Fleury
 T. Reynolds



RECEIVED
DEC 01 1983

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

MEMORANDUM

TO:
FROM:
SUBJECT:

Commissioner Williams, through Drayton Grant, Deputy Commissioner
Norman H. Nosenchuck, Director, Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste
Tetrachloroethylene Contamination in Wallkill, New York

DATE:

NOV 25 1983

RECEIVED

DEC 5 1983

N.Y.S.D.E.C.
NEW PALTZ

The following provides greater detail concerning the groundwater contamination problem in Wallkill, Orange County.

High levels of tetrachloroethylene have been detected in four private wells in a densely populated area. The problem was detected through inspection of a pump where it was discovered that seals had deteriorated, causing failure.

The owner of the most contaminated well, Mr. Parella, had his well privately tested and contacted the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Orange County Health Department upon reviewing the laboratory results. On October 17-18, 1983, representatives of the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water, Region 3, sampled the well in question and one directly across the street. Levels of tetrachloroethylene were 120 and 2.5 ppm, respectively. The drinking water advisory level is only 50 ppb.

Contact was made with Fred Rubel, Chief of the Emergency Response and Hazardous Materials Inspection Branch, EPA, Region II, for emergency response under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA). Our request for emergency response assistance was made because of the level of tetrachloroethylene detected, the close vicinity of other homes and the local geology in the area of the wells. According to bedrock maps developed by the New York State Geological Survey, local bedrock is predominantly shale and sandstone, each expected to exhibit extensive fracturing resulting in significant secondary permeability.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) showed immediate interest in the problem and initiated a sampling program of private water supply wells surrounding the problem area. A total of thirteen wells (excluding the Parella well) were tested. Three (3) wells tested positive for tetrachloroethylene with levels approximately 2-4 ppm. A subsequent sampling of the Parella well shows the tetrachloroethylene level has risen to 280 ppm. There have been on-going discussions between representatives from NYSDEC (Central and Regional Offices), USEPA and the Town of Wallkill. It has been decided to pump groundwater from the Parella well into a tank truck, and transport it to a holding tank where it will be slowly released to a sanitary sewer. The sewer leads to the Wallkill Municipal sewage treatment plant, whose average daily load is 1.5 million gallons. Pumping was scheduled to begin November 21, 1983; EPA Region II has been authorized to spend \$50,000 for this work.

A meeting will be held on Monday, November 28, 1983 between the previously stated groups to discuss the project progress. These meetings will be held on a regular basis so all parties can be kept up to date.

Division staff will assist the Region in locating the potential source of contamination. Our mobile laboratory will be used to analyze soil samples.

cc: L. Marsh
D. Grant
D. Barolo

bcc: N. Nosenchuck (2)
M. O'Toole
C. Goddard
P. Keller, Region 3
A. Klaus, Region 3

CNG:jci





New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

RECEIVED

DEC 1 1983

MEMORANDUM

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 FROM: Norman H. Nosenchuck, Director, Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste
 SUBJECT: Tetrachloroethylene Contamination in Wallkill, New York
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NEW PALTZ

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D. Barolo

bcc: N. Nosenchuck (2)
M. O'Toole
C. Goddard
P. Keller, Region 3
A. Klaus, Region 3

CNG:jci

To: CIM
From: fms

Re: Wallkill (T) Well Contamination

Attached please find a summary of activities performed by this writer and staff in regards to the investigation of the source of tetrachloroethylene being found in the groundwaters in the vicinity of Highland Ave., Wallkill (T).

Also attached as Appendix I is an estimate of manpower accurate utilized to date for the performance of such activities.

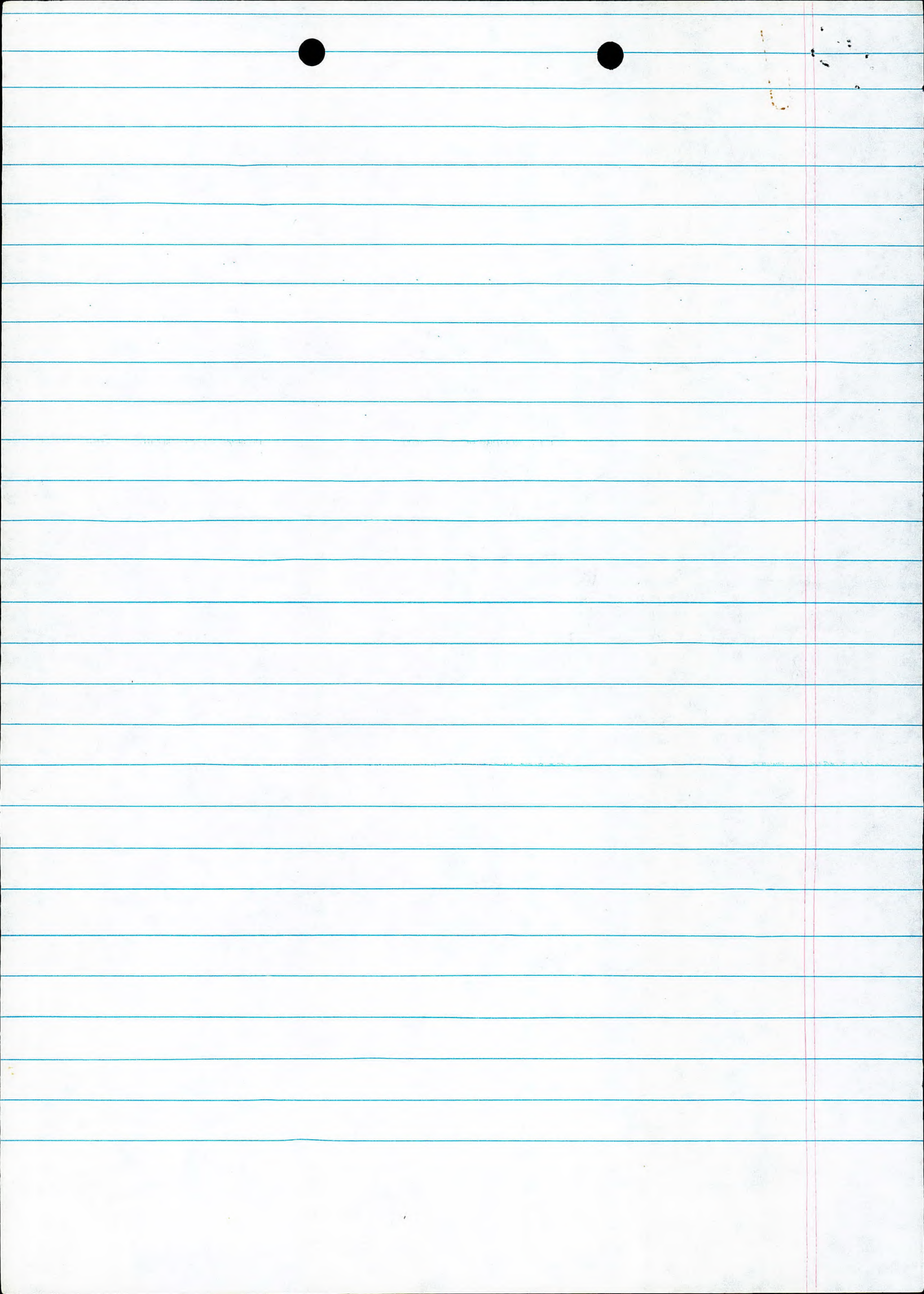
Please note that man-hours (man-days) shown relate only to the activities of the following individuals:

Peter Dosima S.S.E.

Rick Bissonette A.S.E.

Bernard Lohmann P.E.T.

Armand De Angelis S.S.T.



Wall Kill (T) Well Contamination Source Investigation 2

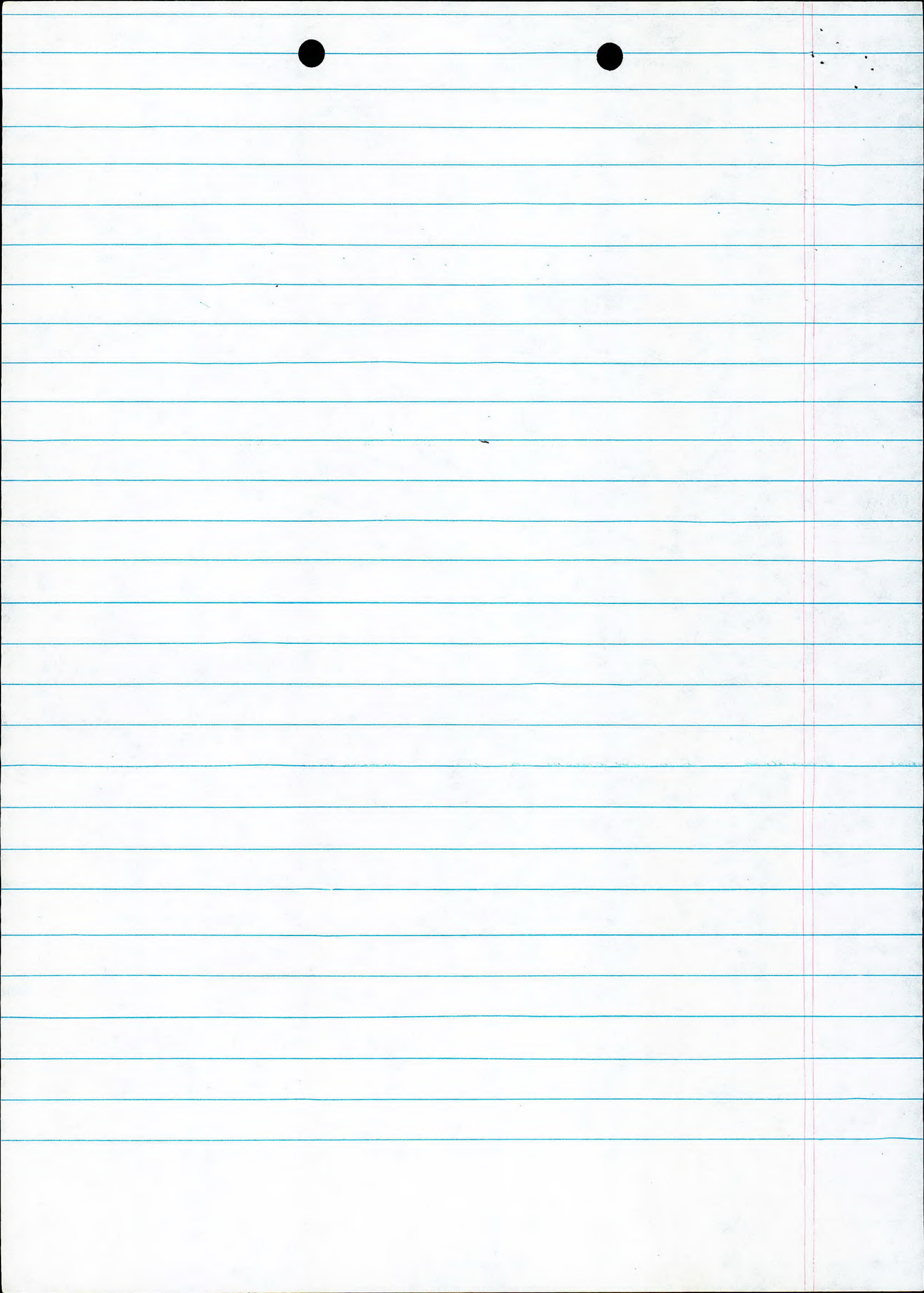
Issue: On 10/14/83 Mr. Charles E. Parrella 320 Highland Ave., Wall Kill (T), advised this office that a sample of his private well water ~~had~~ was found to have contained ^{an} extremely high level^s of tetrachloroethylene.

Follow-Up:

A. Areawide Survey

On 10/17/83 an areawide survey was initiated in an attempt to identify the source of contamination. Such survey included inspections, sampling, ^{and} interviews with private individuals, commercial/industrial establishments and local officials.

This section represents a summary of the areawide survey. Site specific and appropriate detailed activities follow in Section B.

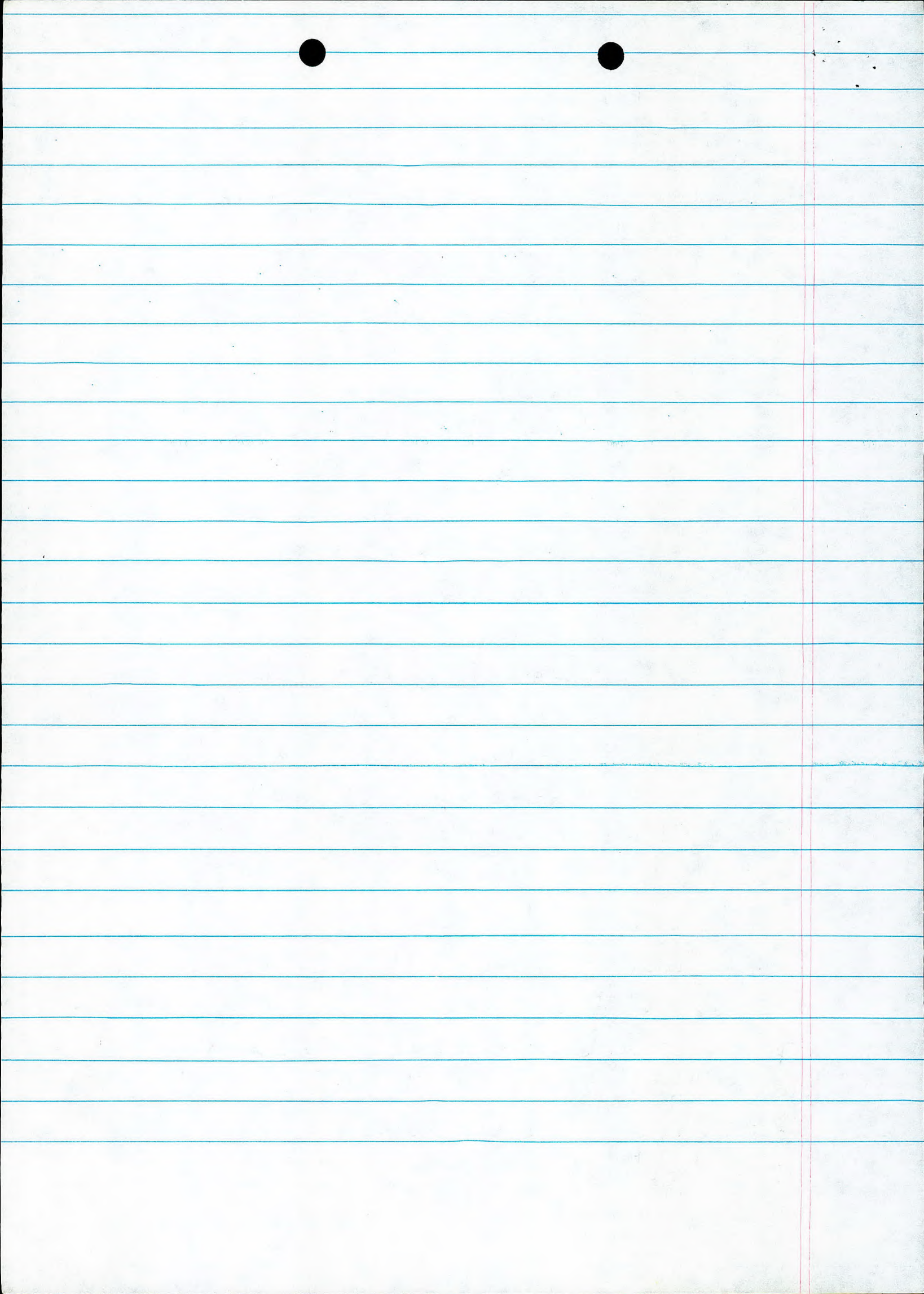


The following commercial/industrial establishments have been inspected, sampled as appropriate, and personnel interviewed:

General Switch
 Lubricant Packaging & Supply
 Guild Molders, Inc.
 Drange County Corrugated Box, Inc.
 Art's Dry Cleaning
 Prior King Press
 Cosmo Optics Inc.
 Poyor Lamps
 Mandarin Soy Sauce
 International Diesel Electric
 Sam E. Fast & Sons Inc.
 Wallace Oil
 Continental Telephone
 Herzburg Brush

During the course of the survey, ~~local town~~ city ~~officials~~, ~~police~~ including the ~~Police Dept~~ ^{officers} ~~were~~ and Police Department ^{officers} citizens and Mr. Parrilla were interviewed with the intent of gathering information pertinent to investigation.

(320 Highland Ave)

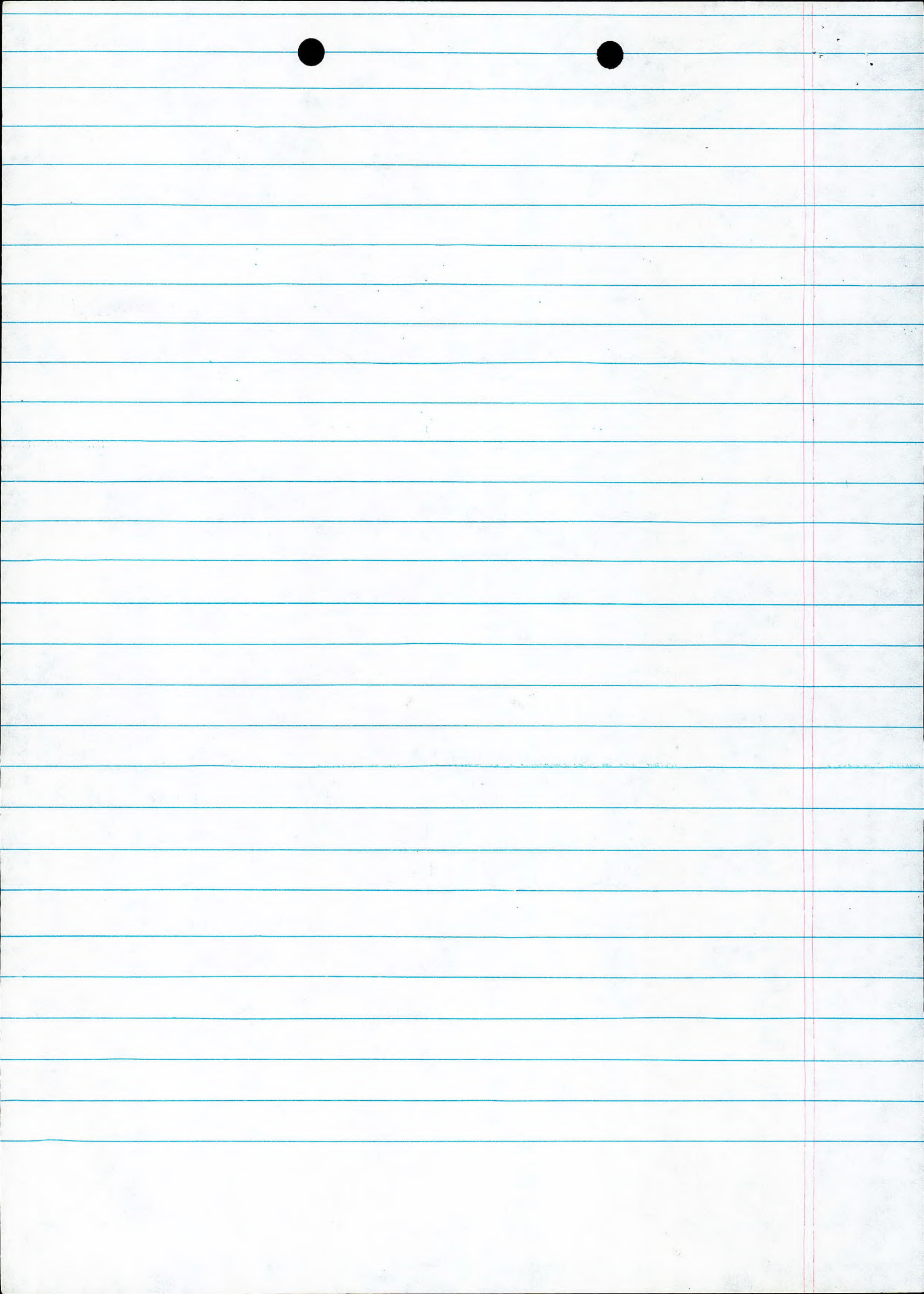


Several chemical suppliers were interviewed ~~for the purpose of~~ in an attempt to identify "perc" users in the area. Two suppliers were requested to review their records regarding type and quantity of chemical deliveries to Lubricant Packaging and General Switch Co. Particular emphasis was placed on (1) whether either of these company's were "perc" customers ^{what the} average usage of the chemical ^{was} and whether record review identified any "out of line" deliveries.

Suppliers interviewed and results are as follows:

Baron Blakeslee - 500 Gal. "perc" / Mo. ^{shipped} to GenSw
 Guardall Chemical - 500 Gal. 1,1,1-Trichloroethane L.P.
 Duso Chemical - No accounts in subject area.
 Jones Chemical -
 Malco Products - Product "TarGet"

contains mineral spirits
 Empty pail found in ~~garage~~
 garage on Mr. Parrellas
 property.



During the course of the inspection phase of the ^{investigation} ~~survey~~, selected sampling ~~site~~ locations were identified. Such sampling has included private wells (residential ~~commercial~~ ~~industrial~~), municipal sanitary sewers, (~~town and city~~ ^{sewage treatment plants} STP's), ^{the} ~~town and city~~ Monhagen and Wall Kill River, industrial discharges and soils sampling.

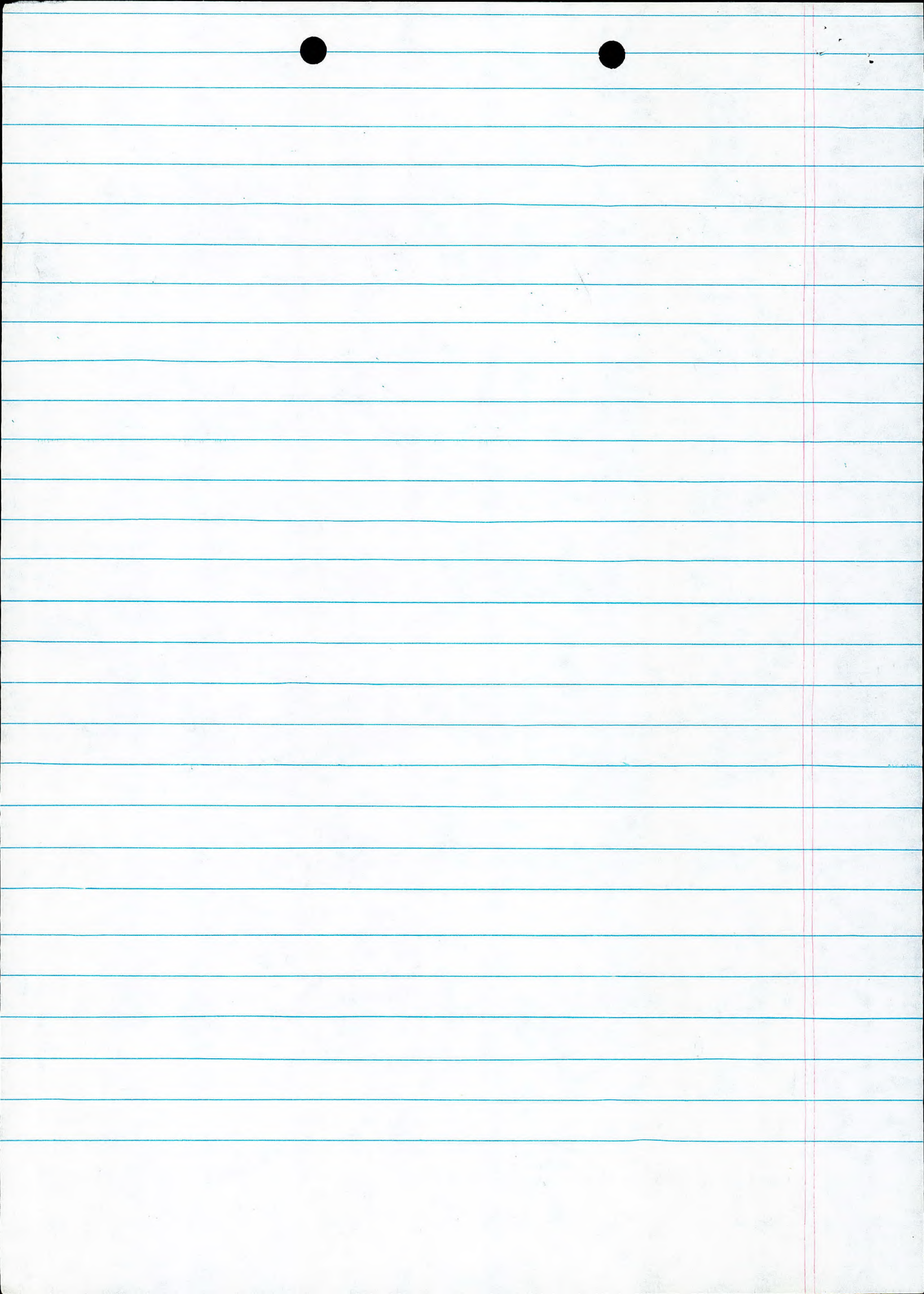
~~Results of the areawide~~

The areawide survey then resulted in ~~site/activity specific~~ in the following site specific activities

B. Site Specific Activities

Three ~~separate~~ different metal detection units were utilized in the vicinity of General Switch Co and the Parrella property. Positive read-outs were identified at several locations on the Parrella ^{property} and at the periphery of the General Switch Co parking lot.

A wooded area directly opposite Lubricant Packaging ~~was walked~~ and to the rear of the Parrella property was walked. An overgrown path, wide enough for motor vehicles, is now



closed off by what appears to be piles of trash, branches, soil ~~etc.~~. a few empty drums w/in the wooded area were found. One appeared quite new while the others were rusted.

soil + sample?

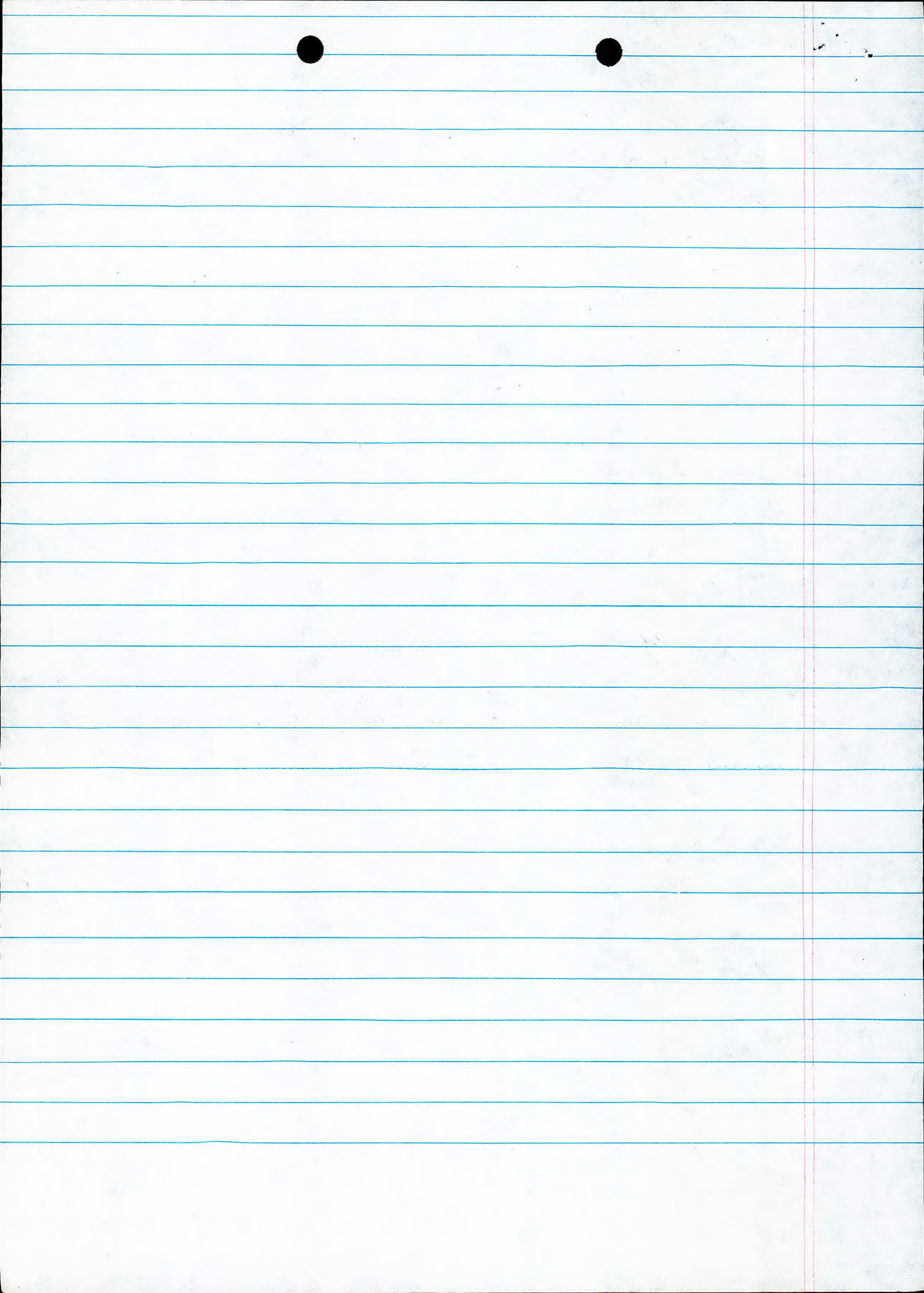
General Switch and Lubricant Pkg. were selected for special attention. Additional inspections ~~and~~ interviews and sampling at both sites were performed. Particular emphasis was placed on soils sampling and comprehensive review of both companies' operation. Soils sampling of the wooded area and the Parrella property was ^{also} performed. ~~on the same~~

The point source discharge was found during the survey. The company has been sampled and advised to file for a discharge permit. The company, however, does not use tetrachloroethylene.

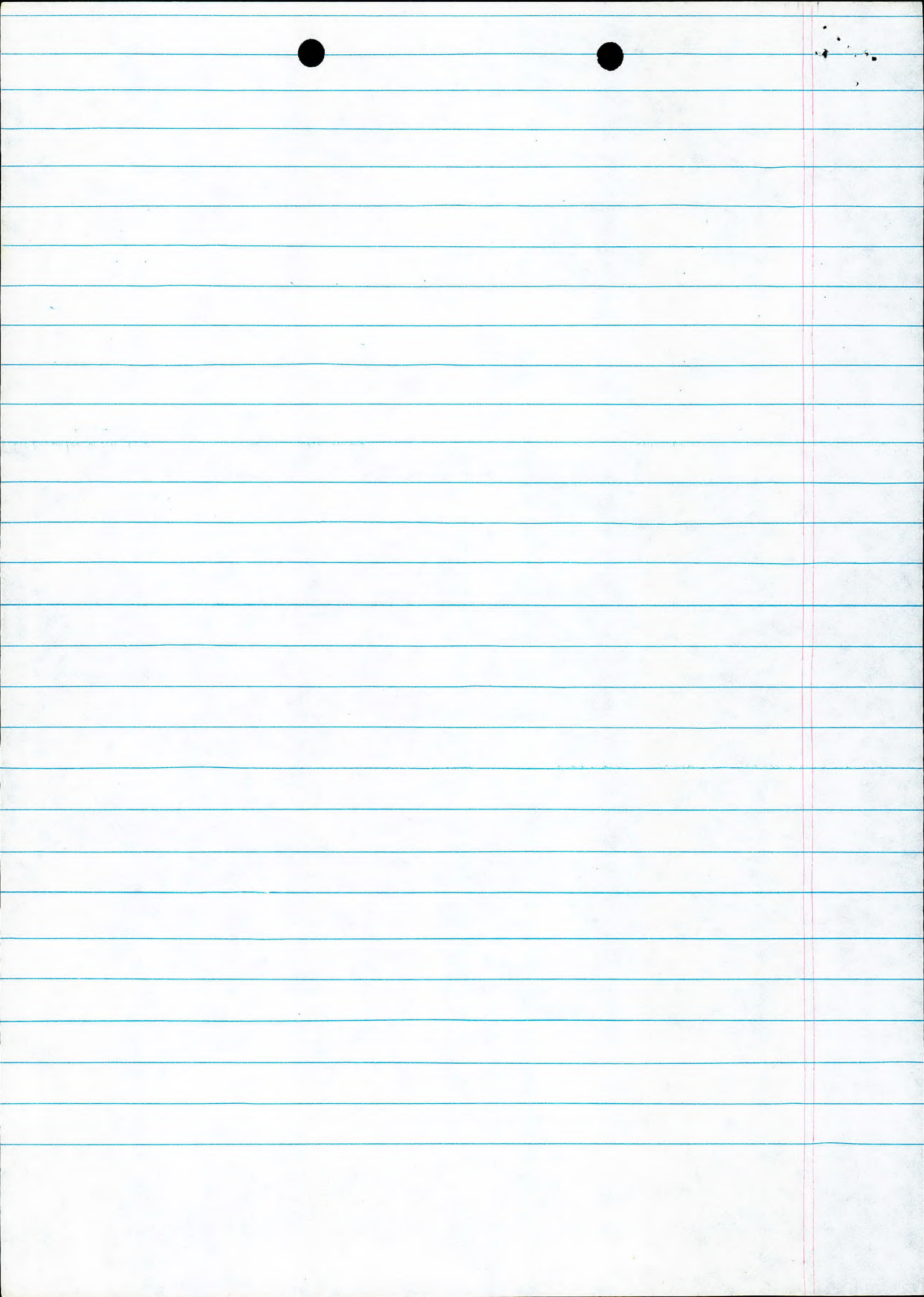
cont. mtd.

C. Results

It is felt that ~~all~~ while all activities to date have not pinpointed the source of contamination ~~it reasonably~~

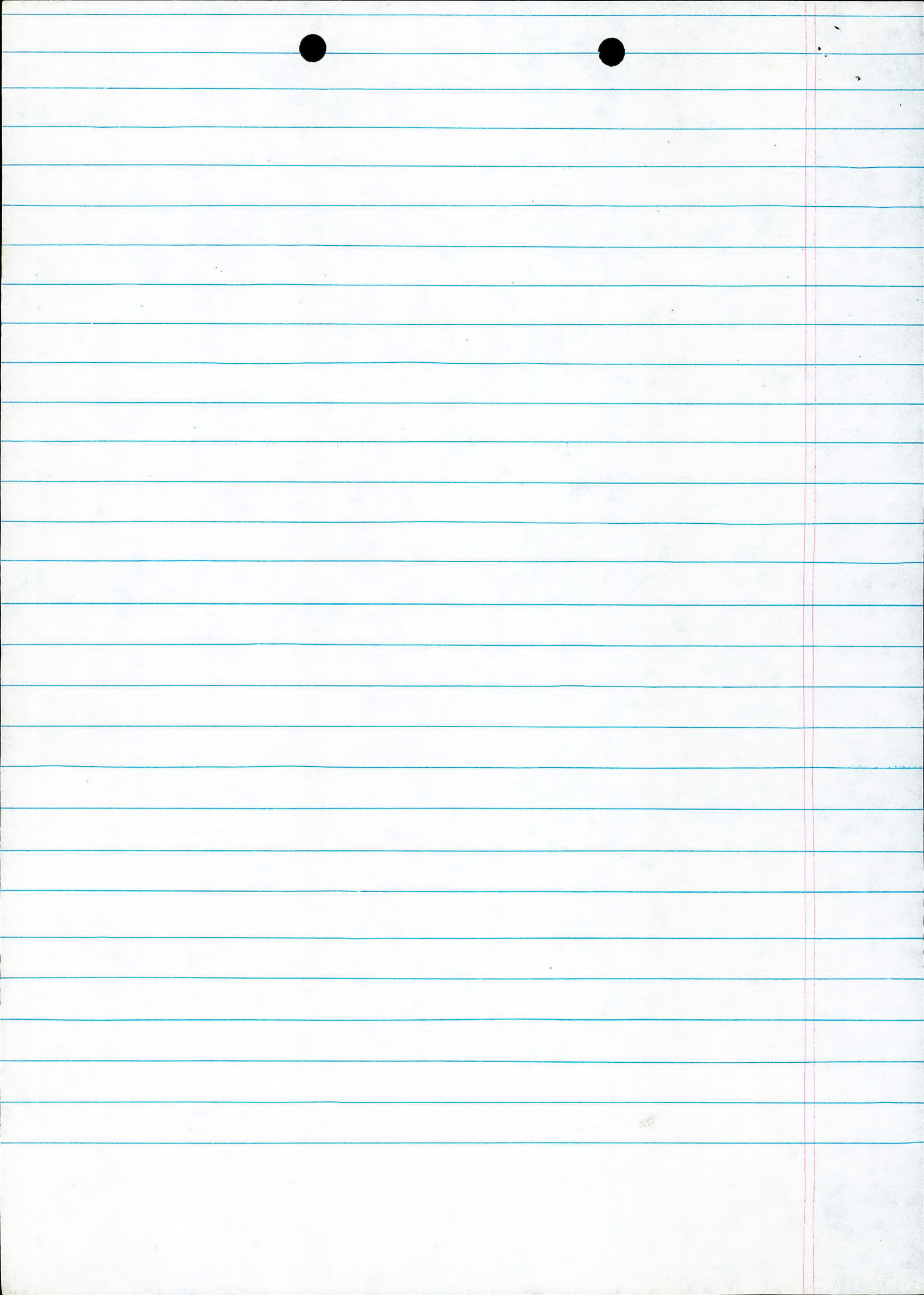


such activities have defined ~~an~~
~~area~~ a candidate area for
further investigation.



Wallkill (T) Well Contamination
Manpower Breakdown

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| R. Bissonnette | 33 hrs. |
| A. De Angelis | 18 |
| B. Lohmann | 81 |
| (exclusive of 1/5, 1/6) | |
| Doshua | <u>146</u> |
| | 278 Hrs. |
| Manfredi | <u>38</u> |
| | 316 Hrs. |



To Al Klauss RECEIVED From P. Doshua
Reg. Eng MAY 8 - 1984

NYSDEC
New Paltz

Subject Soil Sampling Results, Wallkill (I)
Date 5/17 19 84

Att'd is a map showing results of soil samples taken on 3/21/84 & 3/23/84 in the vicinity of General Switch.

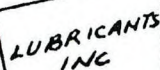
You will note that extremely high concentrations of both PCE & TCE were found at sample location 84-081-01

Signed

P. Doshua

HIGHLAND
630

11120



Series 84-083 taken 3/23/84

ALL
RESULTS
IN
PPM

~~0000~~

- (1) Dr. Johnson 2 p/b's.
Middle layer not agreed.
- (2) Contamination suspected. No further slugs?
- (3) Not permeable, not 50 p/b's; 2 p/b's, ^{perc.} re-equilibrated
Parall's injected in own well / septic tank.
- a) Parall's comparable time elevation.
- s) Rejected standard.
-

DEC took months to trace tainted well

By MELODEE ALVES
Staff Writer

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS — The town of Wallkill company identified in February as the likely polluter of residential wells in Washington Heights showed hazardous levels of the contaminating chemical on its site as early as Oct. 17.

Officials said the four-month lapse in acting on the information was taken up with analysis and investigation.

In a report obtained from the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), General Switch Co. was found to have 1,100 parts per billion (ppb) of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) in one of its unused industrial wells at 20 Industrial Place. The state Department of Health's safety standard is less than 50 ppb of PCE. The standard is based on exposure for eight hours in a controlled industrial setting.

On the same October day, the report shows, the private well at 320 Highland Ave. Extension was contaminated at 120,000 ppb of PCE, the highest level reported in the state.

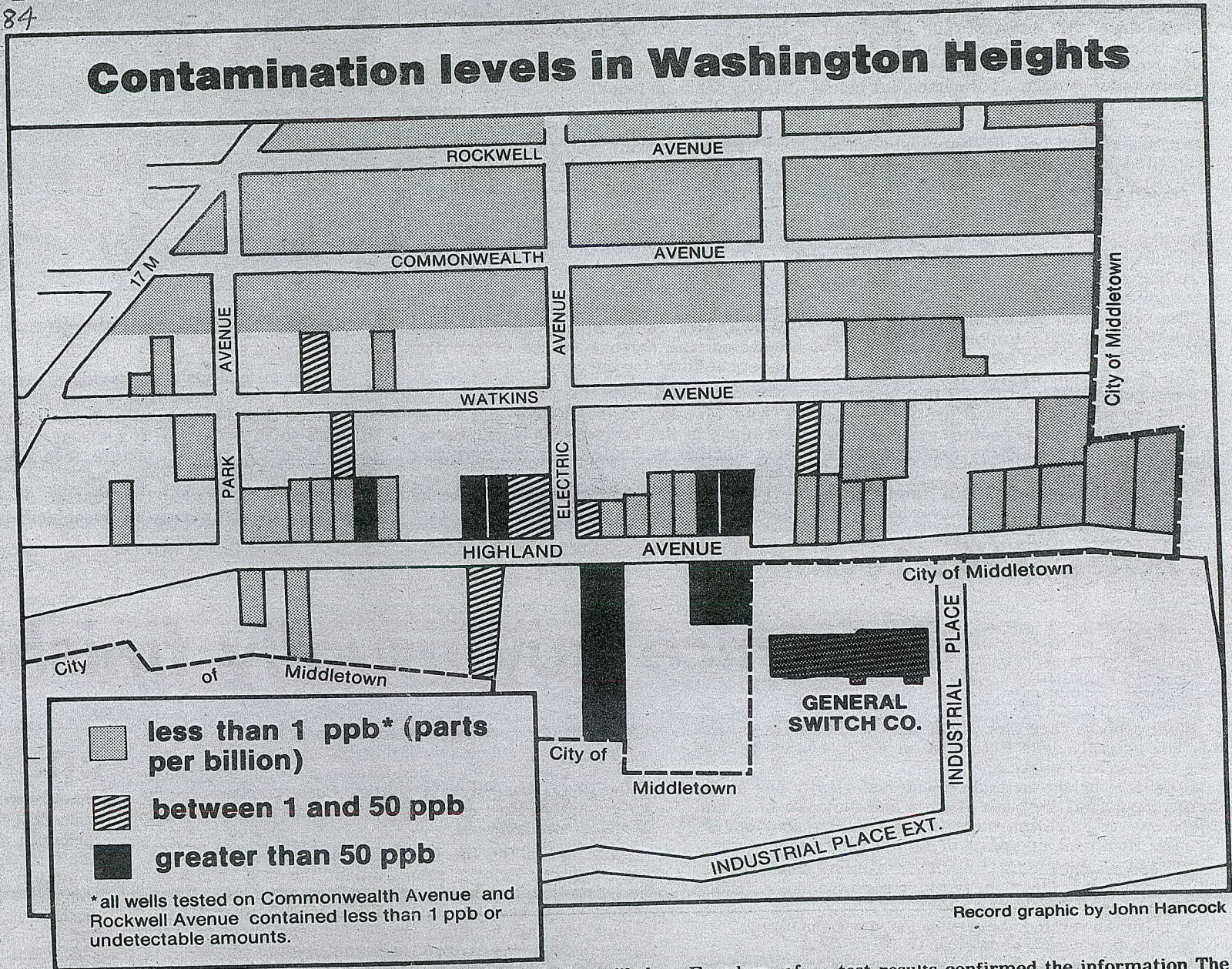
It took four months of investigation and two more months of legal maneuvers to produce an agreement with General Switch to clean up the Washington Heights contamination and provide water to the seven houses with condemned wells. That agreement appears not to satisfy Town of Wallkill officials or residents in the polluted area.

General Switch has signed an agreement, effective May 1, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that obligates the company to provide specific services for an immediate safe water supply.

In late October, four private wells on Highland Avenue Extension were identified by the Orange County Health Department as being contaminated with hazardous levels of PCE. In the following months, three more wells on the street were added to the list. The contamination levels range from near 100 ppb to 260,000 ppb.

The unused well at General Switch reached a contamination level of 3,877 ppb in December before dropping to 1,340 ppb in February.

The well-testing results prompted the declaration of a health emergency by Dr. Russell C. Johnson, county health commissioner. He ordered the Town of Wallkill to provide a safe alternative water supply. The town installed a temporary above-ground line for the seven homes and



Record graphic by John Hancock

PCE has spread at varying levels beyond the seven wells, but has not exceeded the Health Department standard of 50 ppb.

Last month, Johnson told The Times Herald-Record that it had reported incorrectly since February where traces of PCE had been found. To confirm his statement, The Record sought from the county Health Department copies of the results of tests taken since October 1983 for the private

The Record then filed a Freedom of Information request with Johnson's office for the records. In a letter dated April 26 and received May 2, Johnson agreed to allow the newspaper to have access to the records.

The records Johnson turned over did not include all the tests. Johnson said he interpreted The Record's letter as requesting only part of the information. The Record

test results confirmed the information The Record has been reporting.

Most of the wells on Watkins and all of the wells tested on Commonwealth and Rockwell avenues showed either PCE levels of less than 1 ppb or non-detectable levels. Peter Doshna, DEC senior sanitation engineer, defined less than 1 ppb as a "positive trace" of the chemical and non-detectable as "negative readout" of PCE levels.

PCE causes rashes and deterioration of

... time gaps show in tracing pollution

(Continued from page 3)

The EPA consent order also indicates contamination at General Switch. A Nov. 9, 1983, inspection of the company by an EPA employee resulted in a letter on Jan. 25, 1984, notifying the company it was in violation of federal regulations governing the handling of hazardous waste.

The gap between the inspection and letter was explained by EPA spokesman Herman Phillips as the time needed to analyze and verify the test results from the inspection.

General Switch, which manufactures electrical switch boxes, has been generating hazardous waste for more than three years. According to the consent order, the company notified the EPA, in compliance with federal regulations, on July 21, 1980, that it generated hazardous waste from "spent stripping and cleaning bath solutions from electroplating operations." PCE is used in metal degreasing and dry cleaning.

In addition to contamination in an unused industrial well, General Switch had hazardous levels of PCE in its sewer line and the soil around the plant. A test run on the cooling water at the company showed 20 ppb of PCE.

The hazardous levels of PCE turned up in other places in the small industrial park where General Switch is located. A manhole at Lubricant Packing and Supply Co. Inc. at 17 Industrial Place tested at 2,400 ppb in December and 1,400 in January. PCE contamination also was detected at the plant as deep as 3 feet in the soil.

A manhole at Hertzburg Brush showed a PCE concentration of 280 ppb in December but receded to 32 ppb in January.

General Switch has not admitted guilt in the contamination, although cleanup plans have begun. The company is still using PCE, but the chemical is being delivered in bulk rather than in 55 gallon drums as before, according to the consent order. Efforts to obtain from the EPA an explanation of the significance of bulk delivery were not successful.

Walkill Supervisor Dennis Cosgrove has expressed dissatisfaction with the cleanup agreement because the EPA had reached a solution with the town, before a polluter was identified, to provide permanent water to all of the homes on Highland Avenue Extension.

Specifically, the EPA agreed to allocate money from its Superfund for a permanent water main if the town guaranteed that all 34 homes on Highland Avenue Extension would tie into the main.

But the only immediate relief provided by the General Switch solution is to the seven homes with the condemned wells.

The first plan for a temporary water supply was submitted by General Switch to the EPA on Monday, but details of the plan are unavailable. Cosgrove said he is anxious to see that plan because a temporary water system, the above-ground pipeline, has been in place at town and EPA expense since December.

A separate agreement for long-range cleanup is being formulated by the DEC. However, that agreement will not be negotiated until General Switch has fulfilled the EPA agreement, which includes the completion of a lengthy hydro-geological survey of the area.

... the contamination levels range from near 100 ppb to 260,000 ppb. The unused well at General Switch reached a contamination level of 3,877 ppb December before dropping to 1,340 ppb February. The well-testing results prompted the declaration of a health emergency by Dr. Russell C. Johnson, county health commissioner. He ordered the Town of Walkill to provide a safe alternative water supply. The town installed a temporary above-ground pipeline for the seven homes and provided bottled water to all residents living within 1,000 feet of the condemned wells. Results of tests taken on private wells on Highland Avenue Extension, Watkins, Commonwealth and Rockwell avenues, show

Rockwell Avenue contained less than 1 ppb or undetectable amounts.

PCE has spread at varying levels beyond the seven wells, but has not exceeded the Health Department standard of 50 ppb.

Last month, Johnson told The Times Herald-Record that it had reported incorrectly since February where traces of PCE had been found. To confirm his statement, The Record sought from the county Health Department copies of the results of tests taken since October 1983 for the private wells on Highland Avenue Extension, Watkins, Commonwealth and Rockwell avenues and any materials attached to the test results. Johnson initially refused the request, saying the results could be misinterpreted.

The Record then filed a Freedom of Information request with Johnson's office for the records. In a letter dated April 26 and received May 2, Johnson agreed to allow the newspaper to have access to the records.

The records Johnson turned over did not include all the tests: Johnson said he interpreted The Record's letter as requesting only part of the information. The Record filed a second Freedom of Information letter for the rest of the results. Johnson has not acted on that request, but the newspaper obtained the remaining records from the DEC.

Based on the DEC's interpretation, the

test results confirmed the information The Record has been reporting.

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PCE causes rashes and deterioration of kidneys and other internal organs in humans when used in great quantities over a long period. The chemical has caused cancer in laboratory mice.

(Continued on page 26)

Record graphic by John Hancock