

Enforcement Confidential

ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
JOHN F KENNEDY FEDERAL BUILDING
BOSTON, MA 02203

SITE:	<u>Fletcher Paint</u>
BREAK:	<u>11/3</u>
OTHER:	<u>35497</u>

DATE: 8/30/91

SUBJ: Fletcher Paint Works, Milford, NH, Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) Search

FROM: Richard F Fastoso, Investigator, Superfund Enforcement Support Section

TO: Lloyd Selbst, Associate Regional Counsel
Office of Regional Counsel

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PREPARED IN ANTICIPATION OF LITIGATION

Person Interviewed

Wallace K Hooper



Superfund Records Center
SITE: Fletcher Paint
BREAK: 11/3
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On August 29, 1991 at approximately 11:30 A.M. I interviewed Mr. Hooper for the third time (2 in person, 1 phone) to obtain a signed declaration and to ask additional questions on the source, nature, and extent of contamination at the above referenced Site.

Mr. Hooper was shown the photographs obtained from Ed Varnum. Mr Hooper identified Ed Varnum in the photographs and described him as the General Electric employee who took over from Anthony Metivier. He described Mr Varnum as a much stricter individual than Anthony Metivier was. Mr Hooper recalled that Mr Metivier visited Frederic Fletcher in Milford, New Hampshire once, it may have been because Mr Fletcher helped him purchase an automobile. Mr Hooper also stated that one of the pictures appeared to be the inside of the General Electric facility in Hudson Falls, New York, he recalled the pillars in the photograph.

Mr Hooper stated that he made many trips to General Electric in Hudson Falls and Ft Edward, New York; sometimes as often as twice a week. He would always go to General Electric Hudson Falls, New York first to meet Mr Metivier or Mr Varnum and get his instructions. The instructions consisted of how many drums were to be picked up and from which facility (either Hudson Falls or Ft Edward). The 55 gallon metal drums were stored inside at Hudson Falls and outside at Ft Edward. He would not always go to the same locations it would depend on the amount of drums available. Hudson Falls location moved the drums to the Fletcher Paint

Company truck via an electric hand truck (one drum at a time), the Ft Edward location had mechanized forklifts. The General Electric employees loading the Fletcher Paint Company truck always asked Mr Hooper what Fletcher was using the scrap Pyranol for but Mr Hooper was instructed not to tell them. The General Electric employees at the loading dock knew the Pyranol was scrap. General Electric Security was very strict. Mr Hooper recalls seeing an 8-1/2 x 11 shipping invoice.

Mr Hooper again recalled that he went down to General Electric in Hudson Falls, New York on the night of the Russian Sputnik launch, but that the first loads of Pyranol sent to the Fletcher Paint Works in Milford, New Hampshire were delivered in General Electric owned and operated tractor trailer trucks that probably came from General Electric's Pittsfield, Massachusetts plant. After the stock from the first several shipments was used up or sold Frederic Fletcher made some sort of arrangements with General Electric Hudson Falls, NY for additional Pyranol.

Mr Hooper was shown a brochure on filters from AMF/Cuno that was removed from the laboratory at the Fletcher Paint Company in Milford, New Hampshire. Mr Hooper stated that Cuno filters with cartridges were used to filter the Pyranol after it was brought to Milford, New Hampshire. If it was determined that the Pyranol needed to be filtered it was poured from the drums into a 1,000 gallon tank that was cut in half and on its side, pumped through the filter and then placed back in the drums (this was done in back of the paint factory). According to Mr Hooper the better the quality of the Pyranol the higher the price that Webster Cement paid for it.

Mr Hooper also stated that he made several trips to Sprague Electric in North Adams, Massachusetts in the 1960's. He recalls driving to Keene, New Hampshire, then to Wilmington, Vermont, then to North Adams, Massachusetts (Sprague) all in order to avoid driving on the Mohawk Trail. On at least one occasion he drove his truck overloaded with 55 gallon metal barrels so that he could remove all the drums. Mr Hooper went to Sprague Electric more than he went to New Bedford, Massachusetts (possibly Aerovox).

Mr Hooper stated that Roger, Mel, and Acquilane (sp?) Grugnale have a lot of drums buried on their property at the corner of Gennison and North River Road (maybe from Sprague and Carlton?).

Old Mr Danny Webster, who was the dump attendant at the present Town dump allowed almost anything to be dumped there; in fact Fletcher Paint Company sent barrels of waste there.

Mr Hooper was shown canceled check from the Fletcher Paint Company and recalled the following:

The check stubs that say General Electric (1968) is in Tony Cassano's hand writing. As far as the canceled check ar

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concerned:

Commonwealth Chemical Fletcher purchased ethylene glycol, 140 Solvent, and alcohols.
Union Carbide Possibly Surplus equipment
Sanitas Rented a dumpster
Lamont Labs Recalls name, knows he went there but can't recall why
Lukens Chemical Fletcher purchased pigments
Pyramid Chemicals Fletcher purchased obsolete materials, pigments, oils, resins, did a lot of business together, Pyramid may have bought from Fletcher also.
Mr Fletcher also may have sold some Pyranol to a place in New Jersey that tried to make fly killer out of it.

The following individuals may have information on the source, nature, and extent of contamination:

Margaret "Peggy" Sweetnam (sp?), married name may be [REDACTED], she was a secretary who may now be living in [REDACTED] her father ran the "[REDACTED]".
Leona Goodwin, maiden name was [REDACTED] (sp?), she was the secretary before Peggy Sweetnam and she may have done the billing during the Pyranol era.
Richard "Dick" Whitney, forklift driver who helped unload, check and open the Pyranol drums. He may live in [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
"Colonel" Earl Wesson, managed paint factory, scheduled Pyranol runs, Stoddard, New Hampshire, near Highland Lake.
Bruce Hagar, paint factory employee then manager.
Josephine Carr Office Worker
Woodward Warehouse
Bonnett Other store
Hadley Paint Factory, in [REDACTED]
Contos Laconia Store
Driscoll Keene Store, deceased
Mary Griffin [REDACTED] pre-Pyranol
Lenz Store
McNear Store
Meade Concord Store
Moore Keene store manager
Nutter Driver
Pillsbury Lebanon store
Parker Keene store
Shepard Lebanon store, [REDACTED]
Stevens Concord Store
Virgil "Cuffy" Beam
Thibeault Keene store

attachment

cc: Cheryl Sprag
Tricia Mott
Gretchen Wit

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION I

J.F. KENNEDY FEDERAL BUILDING, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02203-2211

Pursuant to the Authority of 28 U.S.C. Section 1746 I make the following declaration:

My name is Wallace Hooper, my current address is [redacted]

[redacted] My date of birth is [redacted]

and my social security number is [redacted]. I voluntarily give the statement below to Richard F Fastoso who is a representative of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. My statement is given freely, without threats or promises.

I was employed by the Fletcher's Paint Company in Milford, New Hampshire, for fourty ¹⁹⁵¹ ~~two~~ ¹⁹⁷⁰ years. From 1942 until 1970 I worked in the paint factory. From 1970-~~1984~~ ¹⁹⁸⁷, I worked in the supply room.

During the 1950's and 1960's Fletcher's Paint Company brought large quantities of Pyranol to the Fletcher's Paint plant. Fletcher obtained raw Pyranol and waste Pyranol from capacitor manufacturers. The Pyranol was resold to Webster cement (now possibly Essey chemical in Melrose, MA) for use in manufacturing roofing ^{Cement} ~~tiles~~. Fletcher also sold raw and waste Pyranol to individuals for road oiling.

Fletcher obtained waste Pyranol from three sources:

1. the General Electric Company facility in Hudson Falls, New York possibly Pittsfield, Massachusetts (Approxim 95% of the waste Pyranol came from General

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5. K. H.
Electric);

2. Sprague Electric, North Adams, Massachusetts;
3. a company in New Bedford or Taunton, Massachusetts, possibly Aerovox.

On a number of occasions, I drove Fletcher's Paint Company trucks to the General Electric plant in Hudson Falls, New York to pick up 55 gallon metal barrels of Pyranol. My contact at General Electric was Mr. Anthony Metivier of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I have visited Mr. Metivier at his home. The other Fletcher drivers were Warner Nutter, a ~~Mr. Hoer~~, and another individual whose name I cannot recall.

One of the first times I went to the General Electric facility in Hudson Falls, New York to pick up Pyranol was the night the Soviet Union launched the Sputnik satellite. I recall talking about the launch with the General Electric employees at the loading area of the Hudson Falls plant.

I would drive to Hudson Falls alone. I usually left New Hampshire around 2 A.M. so that I would be the first truck in line and would not be delayed. Initially, I drove a Studebaker truck. Later, I drove an International Truck ^{2 Ford + Chevrolet} (it held approximately 23-24 barrels). When I arrived at the General Electric facility in Hudson Falls, New York I exchanged paperwork with General Electric employees and had to sign a sheet of paper that a General Electric employee gave me.

N. K. H.
The barrels I picked up at General Electric were always metal. Any markings on them were painted over at Fletcher's when I delivered the barrels there. The types of Pyranol I picked up were Aroclor 1499 and possibly Aroclor 1293. At times I picked up barrels at the General Electric Hudson Falls plant for Fletcher's Paint Works that contained substances other than Pyranol, such as scrap paint, but I would always obtain Anthony Metivier's approval first.

On one occasion, General Electric contacted Frederic Fletcher, who ran Fletcher's Paint Works, to buy back a shipment of Pyranol that I had just delivered from the Hudson Falls plant. The shipment consisted of raw unused Pyranol as opposed to the waste Pyranol that I usually picked up.

During the years I was employed at Fletcher's Paint Works, I observed leaking and rusted barrels of Pyranol stored on the Fletcher property. I also recall that several barrels of Pyranol that were stored by the river embankment fell into the river and were never seen again. I have been shown Figures 2-15 and 2-16 in the Arthur D Little Draft Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Work Plan for the Fletcher Paint Works Site. The areas of heaviest PCB contamination as shown in those figures correspond with the Pyranol storage areas at the Site during my employment.

I declare, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Wallace K. Hooper
Wallace K. Hooper

Executed

Aug. 29, 91
Date

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