STATE OF IOWA

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
MARY L. ELLIS, COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 20, 1986

TO: Russell Currier, D.V.M.
Division of Disease Prevention
and Health Promotion

FROM: Betty Meeker, Industrial Hygienist
Bureau of Environmental Health

RE: Update on Davenport Tool and Die

On October 15, 1986, David Fries asked me to determine the status of the Davenport Tool environmental investigation to insure that the public health aspects of this situation were being addressed. I called the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and talked to Mark Landa, hearing officer, and Pete Hamlin, Regional Program Administrator. Mr. Hamlin is handling the investigation for DNR. Mr. Hamlin said both DNR and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) field staff had been at Davenport Tool on October 15 to collect more soil and water samples. No sampling for airborne lead dust was done. Both DNR and EPA were conducting the EP toxicity tests. Mr. Hamlin thought those tests would cover other metals including arsenic, mercury, and cadmium.

I also contacted the Division of Labor Services (DLS) of the Department of Employment Services. The Iowa Occupational Safety and Health Administration (IOSHA) Consultation Division is administrated by Bill Maddex. Bill Maddex said initially he had been denied access to Davenport Tool; but Mary McLaughlin, industrial hygienist, had been admitted to the workplace at a later time. Mrs. McLaughlin discussed what had been done by her at the building; but Clyde Clark, the owner, had not permitted her to do air sampling or take wipe samples in actual work areas. Four wipe samples and two bulk samples were taken. These samples were analyzed for lead content. The results were reported as:

Bulk Samples

Loading dock pit dirt	5.6% lead (56,000 ppm*)
Scale area pit dirt	0.7% lead (7,000 ppm)

*ppm = parts per million

Wipe Samples

Grinding room--table	3 mg per sample
Cricket frame assembly	3 mg per sample
Board covered window--east side	1 mg per sample
Floor behind compressor	14 mg per sample

Both bulk samples contained high levels of lead. All four wipe samples were reported to have collected dust containing high levels of lead. There are no established standards for the amount of lead in dirt, although DNR used 0.05 ppm as a level requiring clean up action.

Wipe samples in uncontaminated environments are usually reported in amounts of micrograms per sample. These samples all were reported in milligrams per sample, 1,000 times the usual concentration. Mrs. McLaughlin will write a report relaying this information, but Mr. Clark wanted no other guidelines to remedial action. Mrs. McLaughlin couldn't determine if the ratchets made at Davenport Tool contained lead in the metal. This would not account for the reported environmental contamination.

I talked to David Fries on October 15 at 4:30 p.m. to brief him on these matters. He requested that I brief Dr. Currier on October 16 and then call the congressman's aide, Cheryl Ridgon.

I briefed Dr. Currier on October 16 at 9:00 a.m. Dr. Currier made the following recommendations:

1. If Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) gets involved, inform Larry Barker at Scott County Health Department.

2. Call the congressman's aide, Cheryl Ridgon, and discuss the situation. He advised me that after either the owner of Davenport Tool or DNR had formally requested IDPH assistance in a health hazard evaluation, the IDPH would then advise the owner in a "nonregulatory manner" on such items as personal hygiene practices.

I called Cheryl Rigdon and updated her on our assessment of the activities at Davenport Tool. Ms. Rigdon said that EPA personnel were at Davenport Tool Monday through Thursday of this week. Also, Ed Skorsky of the Public Health Service had contacted the Clark family and arranged for more biological testing at a Davenport hospital. Ms. Rigdon will call if IDPH assistance is requested.

Betty Meeker

cc: John A. Eure
David Fries