

## CERCLIS SITE DISCOVERIES

To: Robin Schmidt - SW/3 GEF II

Date: April 9, 1993

From: Connie J. Antonuk

Site Name: C.M. Christiansen Co.

Site Address: C.M. Christiansen Co.,  
Sylvan Products Corp.  
Smoky Lake Reserve  
County E (Lake St)  
Phelps, WI 54554

Mailing Address:  
Mr. Philip Christiansen, owner  
C.M. Christiansen Co.  
P.O. Box 100  
Phelps, WI 54554

Legal Location (1/4, 1/4, sec., Tn., Rg):  
SE 1/4 SW 1/4 S35 T42N R11E

County: Vilas County, Wisconsin

### Site conditions/Justification for listing on CERCLIS:

The site was a telephone pole dipping operation from 1954-1978. The poles were dipped in a 5% pentachloropheno with #2 fuel oil as the carrier. The dip tank operation was located approximately 120 feet from Military Creek, a Class I trout stream, which empties into North Twin Lake. Sediment samples collected from Military Creek in November 1991 showed one area with 640 ppb pcp. Analysis of a yellow perch and burbot in 1986 showed pcp at 250 ppb (sample fish collected from Military Creek).

### Enforcement actions pursued/justification for pursuing Superfund:

In August 1987, the Department inspected the site after reports of children playing with chemicals in the on-site lab. A letter written on Sept 25, 1987 to owner, Christiansen, alerted him to proper chemical disposal as well as a site assessment of the old pole dipping operation needed to be done. In January 1988, WhiteWater Associates sampled the pole dipping area. Soil samples showed 36 ppb - 56 ppb pcp.

Has the responsible party been contacted/notified of CERCLIS discovery? No

Date: April 12, 1993

File Ref: 3200

To: Renee Sanford, WR/2

From: Larry L. Maltbey, NCD

Subject: Proposed Budget Request - Military Creek/North Twin Lake

Recently, we discovered evidence of Pentachlorophenol (PCP) contamination in sediments and fish in Military Creek, Vilas County. This contamination is the result of Christianson Pole Yard who, for many years, has been treating telephone poles with Penta adjacent to the creek. The PCP levels found in perch and burbot in Military Creek just above its confluence with North Twin Lake are very high. There is a need to determine if these fish are also contaminated with Dioxin, which is a contaminant found in Penta. We are seeking money for this analysis through the Solid Waste Program but don't know if we will be successful.

At a minimum, I would request \$10,000 to analyze approximately 10 fish samples from the creek and lake for PCP and Dioxin.

LLM:ck

*Cornie Antokuk*

→ Gary Kulbert, file

Date: April 13, 1993

To: Linda Talbot, WR/2

From: Jim Kreitlow, NCD *JK*

Subject: Sediment Collection Sites to be Sampled Before June 30, 1993

As per our phone conversation, I said I would provide you with a listing of sediment sampling locations, numbers and parameters to be analyzed for your concurrence. You indicated there was some money available between now and June 30, 1993, in which a limited number of sediment samples could be collected.

Upon discussion our sediment monitoring needs with members of North Central District staff, we would like to sample at the following locations:

1. Military Creek at Phelps.
2. Wisconsin River between Merrill and Brokaw and between Wausau and Mosinee (lower priority)

#### Military Creek

This sampling is a follow-up to that which was conducted last September. Based on the levels of PCP found in the sediments, I am recommending that we collect five additional sediment samples and analyze them for copper, chromium, arsenic, mercury, PAH's, creosote, TOC and particle size (these are other parameters associated with the wood treating industry). These samples will be collected at the same locations (4 samples) as those from the September, 1992 sampling, plus one sample from North Twin Lake (deepest location nearest to Military Creek discharge).

The Bureau of Law Enforcement and the Bureau of Solid Waste are investigating this site. Supporting information as to the impacts (off-site damage) will help in scoring of the site for Superfund or Environmental Repair Fund projects. Fish have also contained PCP up to 250 ppb. Therefore, NCD-WRM feels additional sampling is warranted to further define contaminant levels (perhaps fish should also be analyzed for dioxin).

#### Wisconsin River (between Merrill and Brokaw and Between Wausau and Mosinee)

This sampling will be conducted to document the extent of PCP (penta chlorophenol) contamination in these two stretches of the Wisconsin River. Known PCP groundwater discharge sites occur in Merrill (Semling-Menke), Marathon City (Weisenburger), and Wausau (old SNE Corporation). Current data shows that PCP contamination is found in the Wisconsin River from the SNE site (above Lake Wausau just below WPS Wausau Dam site) all the way through Lake Wausau and below the Rothschild Dam. There is a lack of data on the extent of

contamination below Merrill, as well as further downstream from the Rothschild Dam to Mosinee. This will provide information on extent of contamination, and on how far PCP has moved in the River. Six sediment samples will be collected, three from each stretch of river and analyzed for PCP, TOC and particle size.

Buena Vista Sub-watershed

North Central District staff has decided to sample the Buena Vista Creek area (Four-Five Mile Creek Watershed, UW-10) during next year's sampling. It will be a part of the southern sub-basin assessment monitoring program.

We will also plan on collecting the three reference sediment samples that are currently listed as part of the new contract. Exact sample locations and sites will be determined at a later date. Please contact me if you have any questions. Perhaps we can discuss this at our April 19 meeting. Thank you, Linda.

JK:da

cc: Lee Liebenstein, WR/2  
Tom Janish, WR/2  
Chuck Ledin, WR/2  
Jim Hosch, Wausau

Larry Maltbey, Rhinelander  
Bill Jaeger, Rhinelander  
→ Connie Antonuk, Rhinelander

**Date:** April 13, 1993

File Ref: 3200

**To:** Jim Amrhein, WR/2


**From:** Jim Kreitlow 

**Subject:** Dioxin Analysis of Fish from Military Creek and North Twin Lake

Based on the PCP levels in fish found in Military Creek (250 ppb for perch and burbot, 1986), I would recommend that we collect fish from Military Creek and North Twin Lake and have them analyzed for dioxin. I believe it's in our best interest to analyze the fish, considering the source of contamination (old Christensen facility) and the length of time a discharge could have been occurring (35-40 years).

If you have any questions, please contact me in the District Office.

JK:ck

cc: Larry Maltbey, Rhinelander  
Duke Andrews, Rhinelander  
Jack Sullivan, WR/2  
Lee Liebenstein, WR/2  
Connie Antonuk, Rhinelander  
 Gary Kulibert, Rhinelander