

11/17/92 11:00 AM.

To: Archie Wilson  
James Blankenheim  
Tom Jerow

Metell DeBrock-Owens.  
Neil Boudhwin.  
Gary Kulibert

From: Charles Fitzgerald

Subject: Meeting with Mr. Arthur Schneider, Administrative  
Law Judge, DILHR Eau Claire.

Mr. Schneider was holding an employment hearing in Rhineland on 11/17/92, in the matter of Stephen J. Ulrich vs. C. M. Christensen Co. According to Mr. Schneider, Mr. Ulrich testified during the hearing he left employment with C.M. Christensen due to; among other reasons he was forced to improperly dispose of hazardous wastes. Mr. Ulrich gave accounts of:

1. Disposal of 55 gal. drums in numerous locations in Wisconsin and Michigan, by burial:
2. Disposal of Chemicals from drums in Wis. eg. Phelps.
3. Burning of chemicals
4. Burning of Asphalt and rubber products
5. Disposal of chemicals into surface waters.

Mr. Schneider indicated Mr. Ulrich's testimony is part of the Public Record, but if the Department (WDNR) wants a copy he would appreciate it if we went thru. the DILHR office in Madison; Mr Glenn Kelly, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Legal Affairs, DILHR. Mr. Schneider indicated he believed Mr. Ulrich would be forthcoming if contacted directly. Mr. Ulrich's address is;

Stephen J. Ulrich  
5844 River Road  
Eagle River, WI. 54521-9745

C. M. Christensen is located in Phelps WI.

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

Date: November 3, 1989

File Ref: 4430

To: Gary Kulibert, Rhinelander

From: Rich Eakins, Wausau *RE*

RECEIVED  
Wis Dept of Natural Resources  
NOV 7 - 1989  
N. C. Dist. Hdqtrs  
RHINELANDER WI

Subject: Case Reassignment - Sylvan Products Corporation Spill (C. M. Christiansen Co.)

I request that the Sylvan Products Corporation (tracked as the C. M. Christiansen Co. spill) spill case involving leaking drums and soil contamination be reassigned. I base my request on analysis data that indicates the contaminants are not hazardous wastes. As my caseload makes meeting my hazardous waste responsibilities very difficult, I do not have time to address this case.

It has been documented that a discharge has occurred and letters sent to Mr. P. C. Christiansen requesting that he recontainerize and analyze the drums, and define the degree and extent of contamination to the soils and groundwater at the site. Mr. Christiansen requested an extension of 30 days to address the Department's requests of 10/11/89. I responded that the Department will take the request under consideration, expecting no unnecessary delays.

Please advise as soon as possible to my request so that no loss of continuity or response on the Department's part occurs.

cc: A. Wilson, Rhinelander

12/12/89 - Kulibert says Eakins will continue as project lead.



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Carroll D. Besadny  
Secretary

5301 Rib Mountain Drive  
Wausau, Wisconsin 54401  
(715)359-4522

October 11, 1989

File Ref. 4430

Mr. P. C. Christiansen  
P. O. Box 100  
Phelps, Wisconsin 54554

Certified Mail  
Return Receipt Requested

Subject: Spill from drums, Sylvan Products Corporation, CTH E,  
Phelps, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Christiansen:

The North Central District received a complaint of leaking drums located on Sylvan Products property and investigated said complaint on 8/31/89 and on 9/19/89. Tom Jerow of the Department sent you a letter dated 9/1/89 requesting you to secure the area, sample the drums, recontainerize leaking and damaged drums and determine if soils and groundwater were impacted from the discharge. Included in that letter was a list of firms capable of doing the requested work.

During my site visit of 9/19/89, you indicated that you had yet to retain a consultant or contractor to complete the requests of Mr. Jerow. As indicated in the previous correspondence, s. 144.76, Stats., requires you to take appropriate and timely actions to address a spill. The material is on property under your control and the appearance and location of the drums is such to suggest their placement was not by trespassers. Failure to address the spill would allow the Department to take appropriate actions to address the spill and seek cost recovery from any responsible party.

The Department therefore requests that within 15 days of the receipt of this letter:

The area around the aforementioned drums be secured as to public access by means of fencing or other access prevention methods.

All drums be sampled and properly characterized for hazardous waste determination. The drums that were located in the "pier building" should also be sampled and analyzed. At a minimum the parameters to be analyzed for should include: volatile organic compounds (VOCs), EP metals, PCBs, pentachlorophenol and flash point. Sampling and analysis methods should be in accordance with SW-846 "Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste" and documented.

All drums that are leaking or in such condition that recontainerization is necessary be recontainerized in leak proof containers.

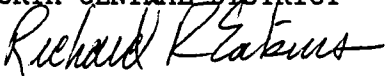
A consultant be retained to determine the degree and extent of contamination to the soils and groundwater at the site.

Submit a report, to this office, defining the extent and degree of contamination of the site within 60 days of the receipt of this letter. Solicitation of Department comments as to the investigation is encouraged,

The Department will consider enforcement actions for failure to comply with the above requests. As over a month has passed since you were originally requested to address this situation, continued delay is unwarranted.

If you have any questions about this letter, please call me at (715) 848-2201.

Sincerely,  
NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT



Richard R. Eakins  
Hazardous Waste Specialist

cc: G. Kulibert, Rhinelander  
R. Jacobson, Rhinelander  
A. Wilson, Rhinelander  
SW/3, Spills

RECEIVED  
of Natural Resources  
OCT 12 1989  
P. C. Dist. Hdqtrs  
RHINELANDER WI

04-64-044030.pdf

CASE NAME: C.M.CHRISTIANSEN CO.  
COUNTY: VILAS  
LOCATION: SE, SW, 35, T42N, R11E  
1/4 MI NE OF HWY 17 ON HWY E

CONTACT NAME: CHRISTIANSEN, P.C.  
ADDRESS: PO BOX 100  
PHELPS, WI 54554  
PHONE: 715-545-2333

STATUS E  
CASE # 769  
PMN #  
LUST NO

SUBSTANCE: VOC'S  
QUANTITY: 31 DRUMS  
CAUSE: LEAKING CONTAINERS

ACTIVE/INACTIVE: ACT  
DATE OF INCIDENT: 890829  
DATE OF REPORT: 890829  
DATE FILE UPDATED: 890901

ACTION BY SPILLER: NO NOTICE, WILL HIRE CONTRACTOR  
ACTION BY DNR: INVESTIGATION, SPILLER REQUIRED TO REPACK DRUMS & CLEANUP  
FIRST RESPONDER: JEROW, TOM/NIMZ, BRUCE TELEPHONE: 715-369-8910  
PROJECT LEADER: HOSCH, JIM TELEPHONE: 715-359-4522

GROUNDWATER AFFECTED: POT  
SURFACE WATER AFFECTED: POT  
NAME OF SURFACE WATER: MILITARY CREEK

REPORTED BY ANONYMOUS CALLER. MATERIAL APPEARS TO BE SOME TYPE OF SOLVENT OR PAINT. JEROW REPORTS 150 TO 200 PPM ON HNU. 9/1/89 JEROW LETTER TO CHRISTIANSEN REQUESTS AREA BE SECURED, WASTE CHARACTERIZATION, REPACK DRUMS, DO SITE ASSESMENT. 10/11/89 LETTER FROM EAKINS TO CHRISTIANSEN REPEATS REQUESTS CONTAINED IN PREVIOUS LETTER FROM JEROW.

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State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Carroll D. Besadny  
Secretary

North Central District Headquarters  
P. O. Box 818  
Rhineland, Wisconsin 54501  
(715)362-7616

September 1, 1989

Mr. P. C. Christiansen, President and C.E.O  
C.M. Christiansen Company  
P. O. Box 100  
Phelps, Wisconsin 54554

Dear Mr. Christiansen,

This letter is in regard to our investigation of some drums on the Sylvan property on Hyw. E in Phelps, Wisconsin. This property is owned by the C. M. Christiansen Company.

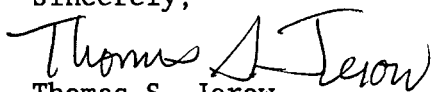
On August 31, 1989 Conservation Warden Bruce Nimz and I stopped at your office to request permission to investigate an anonymous complaint about some leaking drums behind the Sylvan building. You indicated that you were aware that some drums were there, but were not sure what they contained. We did find approximately 31 drums behind the buildings. Some of the drums contained liquids and other drums were leaking on to the ground. I used an Hnu meter to detect the presence of organic vapors. At several locations I detected 150 to 200 meter units in the soils and drums. This indicates the presence of organic compounds.

Wisconsin's spill law (Section 144.76 Wis. Stats.) require you, as the property owner, to clean-up the spilled material in a timely manor. The Department recommends that you hire a contractor to do the following actives:

1. Temporarily secure the area to prevent anyone from coming in contact with the waste. This should be done as soon as possible.
2. Sample the material in the drums to determine if the material is classified as a hazardous waste. Many organic chemicals, including paints and solvents are classified as hazardous waste.
3. Re-containerize the drums and store them in a safe location until they can be disposed of.
4. Once the above activities are completed you will have to access the contaminated soils and groundwater to determine if additional remediation is necessary.

Attached is a list of qualified contractors that do this type of work. This case has not been permanently assigned to me. As soon as an investigator has been permanently assigned they will be contacting you. In the mean time if you have any questions please contact me.

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Jerow  
Environmental Specialist  
enc

cc: Bruce Nimz

→ Archie Wilson

Spill ID Number  
Y Y M M D D 0-99

Date of Incident 8-29-89	Day of Week Tues	Time of Incident unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> A.M. <input type="checkbox"/> P.M.	Reported By (Name) Anonymous	Telephone Number ( ) -
Date Reported 8-29-89	Day of Week Tues	Time Reported 3 PM	<input type="checkbox"/> A.M. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P.M.	Agency or Firm Reporting —	Reported thru Div. Emergen. Gov't. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Substance Involved unknown	Quantity 31	Units drums	Person or Firm Responsible C.M. Christensen Co.
Substance Involved	Quantity	Units	Contact Name P.C. Christiansen
			Telephone Number (715) 545-2333

Physical Characteristics

Solid  Liquid  Semisolid  Gas

Color \_\_\_\_\_ Odor \_\_\_\_\_

Address - Street or Route  
P.O. Box 100

City, State, Zip Code  
Phelps, WI 54554

Cause of Incident  
Leaking Drums

Action Taken By Spiller

No Action Taken  No Notification  Investigate

Exact Location Description (intersection, mileage, etc.)  
1/4 mile NE of intersection of E 617 on E

County Location  
Vilas

1/4, 1/4, Section, Town, Range  
SE, SW, 35, T 42 N, R 11 E

DNR Dist  
NCD

DNR Area  
Woodr

Groundwaters Affected  
 Yes  No  Potential

Surface Waters Affected  
 Yes  No  Potential

Name of Surface Water  
Military Creek

Other Action In Process of hiring Contractor

Date District Notified  
8-29-89

Day of Week  
Tues

Time District Notified  
3

A.M.  
 P.M.

District Person Notified  
Tom Jerow

Telephone Number  
(715) 369-8910

Date Investigated  
8-31-89

Day of Week  
Thurs

Time Investigated  
9:30

A.M.  
 P.M.

Person Investigating  
Tom Jerow

Telephone Number  
(715) 369-8910

Action Taken By DNR

No Action Taken  Investigation  Supervise/Conduct Cleanup

Spiller Required To Take Action; Type  
repackage drums

Contractor Hired By DNR; Name \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Recovered \_\_\_\_\_

29.29 Enforcement

Other Agencies on Scene

Local  
Warden

State \_\_\_\_\_

Federal \_\_\_\_\_

Person Filing This Report (print name)  
Tom Jerow

Signature  
Tom Jerow

Date Signed  
8-31-89

Additional Comments:  
Material appears to be some type of solvent or paint. I obtained 150 to 200 ppm (meter units) on the Hwy.

RECEIVED  
SEP 5 1989  
BUREAU OF SOLID HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT