

STATE OF OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 20, 1992

TO: Rai Peterson
File

FROM: Kim Cox

SUBJECT: Wagstaff Battery Company
Multnomah County
Complaint Investigation

On April 23, 1992, Rebecca Paul and I conducted a complaint investigation at Wagstaff Battery Manufacturing Company located at 2124 North Williams in Portland. We met with Mr. Bruce Hindman, president.

Until June of 1991, the facility manufactured industrial batteries and used cadmium, arsenic and lead. According to Mr. Hindman, the facility no longer manufactures batteries (this part of the operation has been moved to North Carolina), but just services and repairs batteries. The business has been at this location for 25 years.

The facility has four sulfuric acid tanks and a sulfuric acid sump. The acid is still used in the servicing of batteries, however, according to Mr. Hindman, the sump is no longer used.

The facility has a dry well, and Mr Hindman thought that DEQ had issued a permit for the well, but could not locate a copy of the permit. According to Mr. Hindman, Jim Brod was the DEQ staff person who was his contact. I could not find a "Wagstaff" file in the region's files.

Mr. Hindman said that he had considered the installation of a wastewater treatment facility in order to keep manufacturing, as his dry well permit expired two years ago. He either had to install the treatment system or stop manufacturing. He decided the cost of the treatment system was excessive, and the manufacturing operation was moved out of state.

When the facility was manufacturing, wastewater (200-300 gallons per day) would flow into the dry well. Now only a few gallons of waste water per day is generated, and flows to the sewer system.

The site now serves as a site where industrial batteries are serviced (ie adding sulfuric acid) or recycled batteries are collected prior to shipment to a secondary lead smelter.

Memo to: Rai Peterson
July 20, 1992
Page 2

Approximately one truckload per month of batteries are shipped to smelters. These batteries are not broken, but shipped whole.

The facility is in the process of undergoing a level I and II PA, performed by TAG. The contact at TAG is Tom Lindell, 503-643-9218. The PA's are being performed due to the desire to sell a warehouse type structure adjacent to the manufacturing and battery storage area. According to Mr. Hindman, this warehouse building was never used to store any battery related materials.

The facility has four acid tanks onsite. Three tanks (900, 300 and 200 gallons) are fed sulfuric acid from a 1800 gallon tank, and store acid at various concentrations. These tanks still contain acid that is used to service batteries. In the vicinity of the acid tanks is an acid sump that appears to still contain liquid.

In an outside drum and battery storage area, there were several drums of lead oxide, or dross, which is a manufacturing byproduct. The dross is 16 percent lead, and according to Mr. Hindman, is sold to Albany Lead Company. There were also 13 plastic acid proof drums on site to contain acid leaks. It appeared as though weeds had grown around the drums, and not all of the drums were empty.

At the time of the inspection, one of the lead dross drums was leaking out of small hole halfway down the side of the drum. Mr. Hindman said this was just rainwater, however there was some sludge material in the bottom of the drum.

The drywell is located behind (to the east) of the manufacturing building. The area of the ground is yellowed, and the grass appears dead. The attached photos depict what appears to be corrosion of the walls and walls of a acid storage tank.

Per 40 CFR 266.80 (a), persons who store spent batteries, but do not reclaim them (ie break apart) are not subject to hazardous waste regulations.