

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP OF TRACK SEDIMENT IN PENN STATION NEW YORK

BACKGROUND

- Amtrak reported that Poly Chlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) were discovered in the soil during routine sampling conducted in the concrete track area of Track 1 in April 2016.
- Follow-up sampling conducted along the concrete track area of Track 10 also confirmed the presence of PCBs in the soil and concrete track structure.
- Air samples were collected during a 4-hour period and were analysed for PCBs following EPA guidelines. The analytical results showed that the air is safe, and in fact that airborne PCB levels in Penn Station New York are twenty times below the acceptable NYSDOH Air Guidance Value.
- Air monitoring will continue through the remediation process. The results of sampling indicate the possibility that PCBs are present in soil and concrete track structures in other track areas in Penn Station New York.
- Amtrak reports there is no danger to customers as the contamination is confined to an area not accessible by the general public.

EXPOSURE MITIGATION

- PCBs are spread primarily through direct contact with affected areas. Workers can minimize exposure by:
 - Wearing appropriate PPE (work boots, rubber booties, Tyvek coverall, work gloves and safety glasses/goggles). PPE stations with these materials are located on Track 1 West, Track 10 East, and 1D West (diagonal). Additional PPE stations will be placed as necessary. Air monitoring test results do not require the use of a respirator (employees are required to pass a respiratory or pulmonary test prior to wearing a respiratory), however N95 particulate filtering face pieces are also available for use.
 - Following good hygiene practices (washing face and hands before eating, drinking, and smoking).
 - Taking steps to prevent incidental transport offsite including proper removal and disposal of booties, Tyveks, soiled clothing and cleaning of boots before leaving the facility. (Disposal collection areas are located on Track 1 East, Track 10 East, and 1D West (diagonal). Additional disposal collection areas will be placed as necessary.)

REMEDIAL ACTIONS

- At this time, all concrete track areas within Penn Station New York should be treated as possibly containing PCBs. Clean Harbors Environmental Services, contracted through Amtrak, has already completed the cleanup of the PCB contaminated sediment in the Track 1 area.
- Cleanup of the PCB contaminated sediment on Track 10 will begin on/about April 28th, 2016.
- Additional sediment and concrete track structure investigation will be conducted on all track areas (Track 1 to Track 21) of Penn Station New York.
- During the cleanup process precautions will be taken to prevent exposure..
- As remediation and testing efforts continue, we will provide regular updates to our employees and continue to make all necessary equipment and training available so that proper safety protocols are followed.

QUESTIONS

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this advisory, please contact one of the following Office of System Safety or Environmental Department personnel:

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