



Interoffice Memorandum

For Routing To Other Than The Addressee

To: _____	Location: _____
To: _____	Location: _____
To: _____	Location: _____
From: _____	Date: _____

TO: William Kellenberger *W*
FROM: Mark N. Snowdon *MNS*
DATE: January 26, 1988
SUBJECT: Mercury Spill at Champion Paper

Per your request I met Monday, January 25, with Champion Paper representative Harry Dail regarding the mercury spill at their Cantonment facility. The spill took place in the bottom level of the coal unloading facility. According to Mr. Dail, mercury is used as counterweights in the coal shaker assembly. The spill was discovered when the shaker malfunctioned. Champion immediately retained Peterson-Riedel Services (Peterson) to evaluate the situation and undertake a clean-up if necessary. Peterson found substantial amounts of mercury in the coal residue under the conveyor assembly. This residue was removed and the area cleaned with mercury absorbant. An adjacent sump was pumped and it too was cleaned with appropriate absorbant. The associated pumps were inspected internally with no contamination being found. These pumps remain out-of-service pending further sampling.

According to Mr. Dail, as much as ten pounds of mercury may have been lost over a several month period. The spill was confirmed on or about January 8, 1988 but a similar malfunction was investigated in October 1987. This first malfunction was not reported to Mr. Dail because the maintenance team apparently was not aware of mercury's hazardous characteristics. Also, Mr. Dail was not aware that mercury was used in the counterweights. Peterson estimates that they recovered approximately one pound of mercury from the coal residue. Champion is continuing to monitor the area and will take additional action as warranted. The entire spill area is concrete enclosed and, with the exception of the sump discharge, there is no readily available interface with the external environment. The sump pumps discharge to an ash pond. I recommended that the pond be sampled. I also asked that Mr. Dail submit a letter describing the incident and outlining the corrective actions taken. He agreed to do so.

MNS:msd

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

TWIN TOWERS OFFICE BUILDING
2600 BLAIR STONE ROAD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3400



BOB MARTINEZ
GOVERNOR

DALE TWACHTMANN
SECRETARY

SPILL CALL SHEET

DATE 01/19/88 DISTRICT NW TIME 1545 COUNTY ECUMMIA CITY CANTONMENT

RESPONSIBLE PARTY CHAMPION PAPER CO.

ADDRESS _____

LOCATION OF INCIDENT COAL LOADING AREA

PRODUCT MERCURY QUANTITY 10+ lbs

HAZARD CLASSIFICATION POISON
(Acid, Flammable Gas/Liquid, Poison, Petroleum, PCB, Oxidizer, Pesticide)

RELEASE TYPE SPILL LEAK
(Abng. Drum, Spill, Leak, Chem Fire, Dump, Sewage "A" OR "E")

MODE FACILITY BODY OF WATER AFFECTED NONE KNOWN
(Rail, Highway, Facility)

MEDIA AFFECTED UNDETERMINED
(Air, Soil, Groundwater, Surface Water)

STATE CONTRACTOR N/A PROJECT # N/A

INCIDENT DESCRIPTION MR. DAIL REPORTED THAT MERCURY HAS BEEN LOST FROM COUNTER-WEIGHTS 14 OCT 87 AND AGAIN 8 JAN 88. MR DAIL FEELS THAT MERCURY MAY BE CONTAINED IN BASEMENT OF BUILDING AND/OR IN COAL RESIDUE.

ACTION MR. DAIL FOUND AND RECOVERED SOME MERCURY. A CONTRACTOR IS TO BE ON SITE 20 JAN 88 TO EVALUATE SITUATION. SNOWDON INSPECTED SITE WITH DAIL 01/25. REPORT ATTACHED.

PERSON REPORTING INCIDENT HARRY DAIL #958-2121(2575) AGENCY CHAMPION

PERSON TAKING CALL MARK SNOWDON

COMMENTS _____