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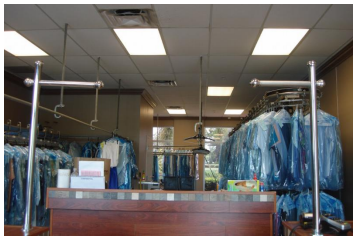
CAN WASTES BE HAZARDOUS AT DRY CLEANING FACILITIES THAT USE PETROLEUM-BASED SOLVENTS?



There are advantages and disadvantages of using petroleum based solvents as opposed to chlorinated solvents (such as perchloroethylene, aka "perc" and others). The major advantage petroleum has over perc is that the environmental impacts are less costly to remediate after a discharge. On the other hand, petroleum solvents may have a higher potential to cause fires. Wastes from both processes can be hazardous.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has information indicating a potential for wastes from dry cleaning facilities that use "petroleum" as their primary solvent to exhibit a hazardous characteristic. In that case, the wastes require management and disposal as hazardous wastes. The wastes that may be hazardous include, but are not limited to, spent solvent, lint, filters, still bottoms, sludges, and separator water. There are at least five primary ways that these wastes can meet the definition of hazardous waste. Source: FDEP

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HOW MANY PETROLEUM CONTAMINATED PROGRAM SITES ARE THERE IN FLORIDA ANYWAY?

Here are some interesting facts. According to FDEP, as of January 16, 2015 there are 19,261 funding eligible discharges under the Petroleum Restoration Program. Of these:

1. 8,348 discharges have been rehabilitated;
2. 5,059 discharges are undergoing rehabilitation;
3. 5,854 discharges are awaiting rehabilitation.

Of the 5,854 sites awaiting rehabilitation:

1. 3.1% (184) sites have scores at or above 30. FDEP anticipates that all discharges scored >30 will be completely assessed by June 2017 or prior.

2. 96.9% (5,670) have been assigned scores at or less than 29 and are considered by FDEP to present a minimal risk of exposure. Discharges scored <29 and in any phase of cleanup, are funded as part of the Low Score Site Initiative (LSSI), Site Rehabilitation Funding Agreement, Advanced Cleanups, etc. programs and normally are not eligible for funding in advance of discharges scored >30.

What is LSSI?

The LSSI is a voluntary initiative that allows site owners, whose site scores 29 or less, to receive funding for site assessments. Section 376.3071(3) F.S. states that each site owner can have up to 10 sites at a time funded through the LSSI, and each site can receive a maximum of $30,000. In addition, a total of $10,000,000 may be encumbered each fiscal year from the Inland Protection Trust Fund (IPTF). This funding does not include any work done onsite before qualifying for LSSI and cannot pay for any institutional or engineering controls. In addition, it does not cover well abandonment costs if spending at the site has already come too close to the $30,000 maximum.

Each assessed site has four possible endpoints. It can receive a Site Rehabilitation Completion Order (SRCO), an LSSI No Further Action (LSSI NFA), Site Rehabilitation Completion Order with Conditions (SRCOC), or the site can be shelved if it does not meet any previous criteria. An SRCO indicates that the site has no petroleum contamination as a result of the applicable discharge. An LSSI NFA indicates that minimal contaminant exists as a result of the applicable discharge, and soil in the top two feet do not exceed appropriate cleanup target levels. SRCOC indicates that the top two feet of soil exceed appropriate soil cleanup target levels. If after the assessment, the plume is not found to be stable and is still likely harmful to humans or the environment, the site is shelved until further funding is available.

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IT MAY LOOK LIKE COARSE SAND BUT THAT CONCRETE BLOCK FILL MATERIAL COULD BE ASBESTOS CONTAMINATED VERMICULITE

Vermiculite is a naturally occurring material that ranges in size from very fine particles to large (coarse) pieces nearly an inch long. This material is used in products including block fill and attic insulation. SGF has encountered this material in block fill in several 1960's era buildings in Florida. In each case, the vermiculite resembled the material depicted on the right side of the photo and laboratory analysis confirmed that it was asbestos contaminated.

Prior to its close in 1990, much of the world's supply of vermiculite came from a mine near Libby, Montana. This mine had a natural deposit of asbestos which resulted in the vermiculite being contaminated with asbestos. Attic insulation produced using vermiculite ore, particularly ore that originated from the Libby mine, may contain asbestos fibers. Today, vermiculite is mined at three U.S. facilities and in other countries which have low levels of contamination in the finished material.

Due to the uncertainties with existing testing techniques, EPA recommends that it is best to assume

the material may contain asbestos. The EPA and ASTDR (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry) also recommend that the material remain undisturbed and removal conducted by professionals trained and certified to handle asbestos to safely remove the material. Source & Photo: US EPA

GET YOUR COPY OF THE FDEP FLORIDAN NEWSLETTER.

The Floridan, a Drinking Water newsletter, published quarterly by the Drinking Water Section of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection presents issues and explores events of interest to owners and operators of public water systems, drinking water managers, and policy makers around the state.

Highlights in this issue include:

* State Agency Coordination Related to the Issuance of Precautionary Boil Water Notices

* Decommissioning of Abandoned Water Wells

* EPA's Vulnerability Self-Assessment Tool (VSAT) - This tool assists water and wastewater utilities in determining vulnerabilities to man-made and natural hazards & evaluating potential improvements

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