July 2019

In our ongoing effort to inform tenants about the Goodfellow Environmental Project, the following provides results of May 2019 air and wipe sampling for levels of heavy metals at the Goodfellow Federal Center. As a reminder all records of environmental sampling and analysis from 2002 forward are available in the Goodfellow Federal Center online reading room at gsa.gov/GoodfellowReadingRoom. Paper copies of these documents also are available at GSA's Field Office in Building 107 between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday – Friday.

Air sampling results

- The World Health Organization (WHO) guidance on indoor air quality for lead is 0.7 micrograms per cubic meter of air for a 24-hour period, and 1.0 microgram per cubic meter of air for an annual average. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) action level for lead is 30 micrograms per cubic meter of air and the permissible exposure limit (PEL) is 50. In May 2019, 174 air samples were collected throughout 17 buildings at the complex. One sample slightly exceeded the WHO's guideline (1.1 micrograms per cubic meter of air), and was well below the OSHA action level. The sample was from a second floor hallway near the southwest stairwell at Column L51 in Building 105E. GSA's cleaning contractor recleaned the area, and GSA will continue to monitor it.

- The WHO guidance for cadmium in outside air of industrial geographical areas is 0.015 to 0.150 micrograms per cubic meter of air. Of the air samples collected at the complex in May 2019, all results were within the guideline. One sample resulted in a detectable level (0.76 micrograms per cubic meter of air) of silver. The WHO does not provide guidance on airborne levels for silver. OSHA's PEL for silver is 10 micrograms per cubic meter of air. The detectable level of silver was well below OSHA's PEL.

- The standard filter that industrial hygiene experts use to take air samples can be contaminated with barium and chromium even before samples are collected, according to the lab that analyzes the samples. Multiple sampling media were found to have this inherent background chromium contamination in the results from May 2019, so the sampling results were deemed inconclusive. Going forward, GSA's industrial hygiene contractor will use a treated sampling media to achieve conclusive data for chromium. Of the 174 air samples taken, 25 resulted in detectable levels of barium. The WHO does not provide guidance on airborne levels for barium. OSHA's PEL for barium is 500 micrograms per cubic meter of air. The detectable levels of barium were well below OSHA's PEL.

Wipe sampling results

- The Brookhaven National Laboratory (June 23, 2017) criteria on surface levels of lead depends on the type of environment, with the lowest being 40 micrograms per square foot of surface. In May 2019, 179 wipe samples were collected throughout 17 buildings at the complex. Three samples exceeded the criteria level. The first (85 micrograms per square foot) was from the first floor northwest stairwell of Building 103E; the second (56 micrograms per square foot) was from the top of equipment in GSA's loading dock area in Building 110; and the third (43 micrograms per square foot) was taken from the floor in the center of a storage room in USDA/FSIS space in Building 141C. GSA's cleaning contractor recleaned the area, and GSA will continue to monitor it.

- Using the Brookhaven National Laboratory recommended surface wipe criteria for arsenic, cadmium and chromium, none of the wipe samples from May 2019 exceeded the criteria levels.

- Brookhaven National Laboratory does not provide guidance on surface levels for barium. Of the 179 wipe samples taken, two resulted in elevated levels of barium. GSA's cleaning contractor recleaned the area, and GSA will continue to monitor it.

If you have any questions, please email r6environmental@gsa.gov.

GSA Region 6 Environmental Team
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