

# Health Consultation

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Public Health Evaluation of Soil and Groundwater Data

76-80 PLINY STREET  
(a/k/a PLINY STREET 76-80)

HARTFORD, HARTFORD COUNTY, CONNECTICUT

EPA FACILITY ID: CTN000103101

APRIL 18, 2001

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Public Health Service  
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry  
Division of Health Assessment and Consultation  
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

## **Health Consultation: A Note of Explanation**

An ATSDR health consultation is a verbal or written response from ATSDR to a specific request for information about health risks related to a specific site, a chemical release, or the presence of hazardous material. In order to prevent or mitigate exposures, a consultation may lead to specific actions, such as restricting use of or replacing water supplies; intensifying environmental sampling; restricting site access; or removing the contaminated material.

In addition, consultations may recommend additional public health actions, such as conducting health surveillance activities to evaluate exposure or trends in adverse health outcomes; conducting biological indicators of exposure studies to assess exposure; and providing health education for health care providers and community members. This concludes the health consultation process for this site, unless additional information is obtained by ATSDR which, in the Agency's opinion, indicates a need to revise or append the conclusions previously issued.

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## HEALTH CONSULTATION

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HARTFORD, HARTFORD COUNTY, CONNECTICUT

EPA FACILITY ID: CTN000103101

Prepared by:

Connecticut Department of Public Health  
Under Cooperative Agreement with the  
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

*The conclusions and recommendations in this health consultation are based on the data and information made available to the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. The Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry will review additional information when received. The review of additional data could change the conclusions and recommendations listed in this document.*

## BACKGROUND AND STATEMENT OF ISSUE

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) was asked by the City of Hartford to evaluate the public health implications of hazardous contamination at a 1.6 acre property located at 76-80 Pliny Street. The Pliny Street site is located in an urban residential section of Hartford. It is bordered to the west by My Sister's Place (a transitional living center for families), to the south by Pliny Street and multifamily residences, to the east by residences and to the north by St. Patrick's Cemetery and vacant land owned by My Sisters Place. Attachment A contains a plan of the property (EPA 2000).

The Pliny Street property became a hazardous waste site when the City of Hartford demolished buildings onsite because they were structurally unsound. During building demolition by the City in July 2000, soils with very high levels of chromium were discovered at the site.

Historical information indicates that a variety of manufacturing operations occurred at the site from the early 1900s until the late 1980s. Operations included chrome plating for the Proctor Silex Company and auto repair (ERL, 1993). From the late 1980s until the time the City began preparing for building demolition in February 2000, the property was used as a bottle redemption center.

Three separate environmental assessments were conducted for the site in 1989, 1990 and 1993, to assist in a potential purchase of the property. The 1989 and 1990 assessments noted many physical hazards such as broken glass, car parts, scrap metal and other debris around the property. Oil-stained soils were noted in the northern portion of the site near the cemetery. The interior of the buildings onsite were observed to be cluttered with many containers of chemicals, paints and petroleum products. Floor sumps in two of the buildings had a visible oily product and an oil-stained floor. Insulation in the buildings was noted to be in poor condition and given the age of the building, likely to contain asbestos. Access to the property is not discussed in any of the three assessments but a fence is indicated on site plans in all three documents. The assessments also note that the property is predominantly covered by buildings and pavement (ERL 1990; ERL 1993).

The 1990 and 1993 assessments included sampling and analysis of groundwater and subsurface soils. These investigations showed that groundwater has been impacted by trichloroethylene (TCE), 1,2-dichloroethylene (1,2-DCE), chromium, and lead and that subsurface soils have been impacted by TCE, 1,2-DCE, and chromium.

In early 2000, the City began the process of demolishing the buildings on the Pliny Street property. Asbestos, hazardous wastes found inside the buildings, and oil-stained wood block flooring were removed. According to the contractor who conducted waste removal activities, hazardous wastes removed from the site consisted of the following (Fuss and O'Neill, 2000):

- 55-gallon drum of waste paint;
- 10-gallon drum of waste oil/solvent containing methylene chloride;
- Fifteen pounds of waste aerosol cans;
- 55-gallon drum of waste asphalt emulsion;
- 220 gallons of oil/water mixture;
- 400 pounds of oily debris;
- 250 pounds of waste latex paint; and
- 500 pounds of PCB-containing debris (light ballasts).

In July 2000, the demolition company working for the City began excavating building foundations and concrete subfloorings. In the excavation holes, oil and yellow-green stained soil and concrete were observed. In addition, precipitation during the excavation caused yellow-green puddles to form in the excavation holes. The area was immediately marked with caution tape and CT DEP was notified. In addition, the locked fence around the property was posted with warning signs. The ponded rainwater was removed and disposed of offsite, the puddled area was covered with clean soil, and several layers of polyethylene plastic were placed over the area. Soil and ponded water samples taken in the area revealed very high levels of total chromium, hexavalent chromium, and lead.

On September 12, 2000, EPA collected 12 surface soil samples in the footprint of the former building as part of a Preliminary Assessment and Site Investigation. Results confirmed that the very high levels of chromium and lead are not in the accessible surface soils. On October 17, 2000, EPA collected 84 additional soil samples in a grid pattern to better delineate contaminated soil at the site. Grid samples were taken at the surface and at depth. Soil sampling was focused in the area where the buildings had been rather than the paved areas. Also in October, EPA replaced the existing fence around the property with a new one. This action was taken in response to episodes of vandalism to the fence.

DEP and Proctor Silex, a Potentially Responsible Party, are currently negotiating the terms of further environmental investigation and cleanup that the company will undertake at the Pliny Street property. In January 2001, contractors working for Proctor Silex placed a cap consisting of geotextile fabric and gravel layer over the area that had been covered with clean soil and polyethylene plastic sheeting. The cap provides a more secure barrier to prevent anyone from coming into contact with soil contamination on the property until it is permanently addressed.

#### *Site Visit*

On September 26, 2000, DPH staff visited the site. Buildings have been removed and the property is now an open lot. The majority of the property is covered with asphalt and the slab of the building foundation. The asphalt appeared in poor condition in some areas. Soils within the

former building footprint appeared to be well covered with a plastic barrier. The property is fenced and posted. No obvious signs of trespassing were observed.

#### *Demographics*

The population that is potentially exposed consists of approximately 35,000 people that live within 1 mile of the site. This includes approximately 4380 children under the age of 6 years. Attachment B is a site location map which includes population estimates within 1 mile of the site.

#### *Environmental Contaminant Levels*

Subsurface soil samples were collected as part of the 1990 and 1993 assessments. However, most of these samples were analyzed using EPA's toxicity characteristic leaching procedure (TCLP). TCLP data cannot be used to assess public health risks. Data from the 1990 and 1993 investigations show that subsurface soils are contaminated with chromium, TCE, and 1,2-DCE. The highest levels of chromium were present in soils under the sub-flooring of one of the buildings and the highest levels of TCE and 1,2-DCE were present in subsurface soils just outside the building footprint.

Limited groundwater data were collected as part of the 1990 and 1993 assessments as well. These data indicate that groundwater under the Pliny Street property is contaminated with metals (including chromium and lead) and volatile organic compounds (including 1,2-DCE and TCE). For one sample collected in 1990, it was noted that the water was a yellow-green color. A formal groundwater flow map has not been generated but limited data suggest that groundwater flow is to the south, toward Pliny Street. Three downgradient wells located on the south side of Pliny street were sampled as part of the 1993 assessment. Results indicated that groundwater was not degraded at those locations. However, groundwater sampling has not been conducted since 1993.

In July 2000, stained soil and stained ponded rainwater samples were collected when they were discovered. The ponded rainwater was removed and disposed of offsite and stained soils were covered with clean soil. Results indicated extremely elevated levels of chromium, hexavalent chromium, and lead (up to 74,200 ppm, 240 ppm, and 12,300 ppm, respectively).

In September and October 2000, EPA collected many additional surface and subsurface soil samples to better characterize contamination at the Pliny Street site. Results showed elevated concentrations of a variety of metals in surface and subsurface soils. Table 1, below, provides maximum concentrations in surface and subsurface soils for contaminants detected at levels above health protective comparison values.

TABLE 1. Summary of soil data from Pliny Street site.

Contaminant	Maximum Conc. Surface Soils (mg/kg)	Sample Depth (inches)	Maximum Conc. Subsurface Soils (mg/kg)	Sample Depth (inches)	Comparison Value	Comparison Value Source
Antimony	ND*	---	315	36	20	child RMEG
Arsenic	44	6	ND	---	10	CT RSR
Cadmium	17.6	6	483	48	10	chronic EMEG
Total Chromium	4000	6	74,600	12 <sup>^</sup>	3900	CT RSR
Chromium VI	151	6	1152	18	100	CT RSR
Lead	ND*	6	12,300	12 <sup>^</sup>	500	CT RSR
Nickel	4180	6	NA	---	1000	child RMEG
Trichloroethylene	ND*	---	61	36	56	CT RSR

\* No detections above the comparison value.

<sup>^</sup>Sample was taken from the area of stained soils. Area was subsequently covered with approximately 12 inches of clean soil and several layers of polyethylene plastic.

CT RSR = Connecticut residential criteria for direct exposure to soil; 365 days/year exposure for 30 years.

child RMEG = Reference Dose Media Evaluation Guide for children (noncancer effects).

chronic EMEG = Chronic (exposure  $\geq$  365 days) Environmental Media Evaluation Guide (noncancer effects).

CREG = Cancer Risk Evaluation Guide for  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  cancer risk based on lifetime exposure.

## DISCUSSION

### *Exposure Pathway Analysis and Public Health Implications*

#### Current Site Conditions

In order to be exposed to soil contaminants at the Pliny Street site, one must come into direct contact with the soil by touching it (dermal contact), inhaling soil particles (inhalation), or eating soil adhered to fingers or food items (ingestion). Under current conditions, there are no pathways by which someone could be exposed to soil contaminants at the Pliny Street site. Onsite soils are currently covered with a multilayer cap. Most of the remainder of the site is paved. In addition, access is restricted by a locked fence that is also posted.

The local community has raised concerns about the potential for chromium contamination from the Pliny Street property to have migrated offsite, into the soil in the surrounding neighborhood. There are no historical records to suggest that chromium from the site was disposed of in the neighborhood and there are no obvious environmental transport pathways that could have moved chromium offsite. Nevertheless, CT DEP has agreed to conduct some offsite soil sampling to confirm that site contaminants are not present. If the CT DEP sampling shows that site contaminants are present in accessible offsite soils, then there is the potential for adults and children to be exposed under current conditions.

Groundwater at the site is not used for drinking water. Therefore, exposure to contaminants from ingestion of groundwater is not a concern at this site. However, there are elevated levels of volatile organic compounds in groundwater at the site which present a potential source for volatilization into indoor air of nearby structures. Groundwater data collected in 1993 from wells on the south side of Pliny Street did not show any contaminants. However, groundwater data has not been collected since that time.

Based upon an evaluation of all available information for the site, exposures to contamination from the Pliny Street site are considered to be extremely unlikely. Because of the low likelihood of exposure, health impacts are not of concern under current site conditions. However, if offsite soil sampling indicates the presence of site-related contaminants, CT DPH will re-evaluate the potential for health impacts under current site conditions. Similarly, if new groundwater data show that volatiles have migrated offsite, CT DPH will evaluate the potential for indoor air exposures.

#### Past Site Conditions

The local community has reported that the property was not well-secured in the past and trespassing by children was common. Under past site conditions, it is possible that trespassing children could have come into contact with hazardous materials such as waste paints, oils, and solvents that were present inside the buildings before they were demolished. Potential exposures that children might have received from contact with hazardous materials inside buildings are not possible to assess definitively because there are no data on the chemicals or the concentrations present in the waste materials. It is known that aside from asbestos present in the buildings, wastes were primarily in drums or other containers, which would have reduced the potential for exposure to such materials.

Regarding potential exposure to soil contamination prior to building demolition, the historic sampling done in the early 1990s indicates that contamination was limited primarily to beneath the buildings and right next to the buildings. There are no indications that high levels of contaminants were present in accessible surface soils in the small areas of the property that were unpaved. Therefore, under past site conditions, it is extremely unlikely that direct contact with contaminated soils at the site occurred. Contaminated soils only became exposed during building demolition. When soils with high levels of chromium were brought to the surface during building demolition, the area was covered with clean soil and a plastic barrier. CT DPH, CT DEP, and EPA noted no evidence of disturbance of the clean soil or plastic liner. While it is possible that trespassing children could have moved the plastic, dug into the soil, and come into contact with chromium contaminated soils, it appears very unlikely that such exposure did occur.

#### EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CONCERNS

Community health concerns were collected by DPH staff during a site visit on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2000, at a public meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2000, and during informal conversations with community leaders.

1. The local community is concerned about whether they have been exposed to chromium or asbestos in dust that was generated during building demolition. CT DPH believes that it is highly unlikely that dust generated during building demolition was contaminated with chromium, asbestos, or any other site-related contaminant. Asbestos was removed from the buildings prior to demolition. When buildings were demolished, there was no contamination in accessible surface soil that could have been made airborne. Therefore, exposure to site contaminants in dust from the site is very unlikely.

2. Local residents claim that the property was not well secured in the past and trespassing by children was common. They are concerned that children may have been exposed to hazardous materials in the buildings onsite. With regard to hazardous materials present inside buildings in the past, there is limited information available about what chemicals and what concentrations were present in the hazardous wastes that were removed from the property in early 2000. However, it is known that aside from asbestos, wastes were primarily in drums or other containers, which would have reduced the potential for exposure to such materials. While it is not possible to definitively evaluate potential exposures and health effects from hazardous materials present in and around the buildings prior to building demolition, CT DPH believes that it is not likely that significant exposures occurred.

3. Local residents are concerned that children may have come into contact with the high levels of chromium in soil that were brought to the surface during the removal of building footings. When high levels of chromium were brought to the surface during removal of building flooring and footings, the area was quickly covered with clean soil and a plastic barrier. CT DPH, CT DEP, and EPA saw no evidence that the clean soil or plastic liner was disturbed. While it is possible that children could have moved the plastic, dug into the soil, and come into contact with chromium contaminated soils, it appears very unlikely that such exposure did occur.

4. Local residents are concerned that chromium contamination from the Pliny Street site may have migrated offsite. CT DPH was told at a public meeting that some children playing outside the property fence during the summer 2000, developed sores on their legs and feet from exposure to chromium. CT DPH asked at several public meetings that any individual who had been affected should contact CT DPH so CT DPH could learn more about the incident and answer questions directly to affected individuals. However, none of these individuals contacted CT DPH. Therefore, CT DPH has very limited information regarding the incident. CT DPH believes that it is highly unlikely that children playing outside the property fence were exposed to chromium from the site. There does not appear to be any evidence that chromium from the Pliny Street site was disposed of in the neighborhood. Chromium in soils onsite is not present at the surface so there is no environmental transport pathway (like runoff or dust) to move contaminated soil into the neighborhood. Even though it is unlikely that chromium has migrated off the property, CT DEP will be conducting some soil sampling beyond the property line to assess whether or not off-site soils are contaminated. CT DPH will review those data when available.

Toxicology literature reports that workers handling liquids or solids with high levels of chromium IV developed skin ulcers. Some people have been found to experience allergic skin reactions consisting of severe redness and swelling when their skin touches chromium IV. There is a study reported in the literature in which volunteers with a chromium skin allergy were exposed to varying levels of chromium on skin patches. Based on the results of the study, the authors concluded that soil concentrations of chromium IV and chromium III of 450 ppm and 165,000 ppm, respectively, should not pose a hazard of allergic contact dermatitis to 99.9% of people who might be exposed to chromium through soil-skin contact (ATSDR 2000). The highest levels of chromium found in accessible surface soil at the Pliny Street site were well below these levels. While it is biologically possible for chromium to cause skin sores, it is very unlikely that children at the Pliny Street site were exposed to the levels needed to cause such effects.

## CONCLUSIONS

Soil sampling at the Pliny Street site shows that there are elevated concentrations of total chromium, chromium VI, and several other metals in surface and subsurface soils. Levels of some of the contaminants in soil greatly exceed health comparison values. In addition, data indicate that groundwater has been impacted by chromium, lead, and several volatile organic chemicals. Groundwater data are very limited but appear to indicate that volatilization into indoor air is not a concern. Exposure to the contaminants in soil onsite is not occurring currently because exposed soils have been capped and most of the remainder of the site is paved. Access is restricted by a fence that is locked and posted. Based on current information, there is no exposure and no health hazard under current site conditions. However, this determination will be confirmed when offsite data are available.

ATSDR has a categorization scheme whereby the level of public health hazard at a site is assigned to one of five conclusion categories. ATSDR conclusion categories are included as Attachment C to this report. CT DPH has concluded that based on current information and under current conditions, the Pliny Street site poses No Apparent Public Health Hazard.

With regard to past conditions, exposures to soil contaminants under past site conditions are possible but are considered to be very unlikely and certainly not great enough to pose a health hazard. Possible past exposures to hazardous materials inside the former building are difficult to evaluate because of the lack of data on chemicals and concentrations in the waste materials.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. CT DPH recommends that the site be inspected regularly to ensure that the cap is not disturbed and the fence continues to restrict access to the property.
2. CT DPH recommends that the nature and extent of groundwater at the site be fully characterized.
3. CT DPH recommends that information about the site be communicated regularly to the local community.

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACTION PLAN

### *Actions Taken*

1. CT DPH has participated in public meetings regarding the Pliny Street site.
2. CT DPH has prepared a fact sheet on the Pliny Street site and has made it available to the community. This fact sheet is included as Attachment D.

### *Actions Planned*

1. CT DPH will make this health consultation available to the local community and all other interested parties.
2. CT DPH will continue to participate in public meetings regarding the Pliny Street site.
3. CT DPH will work with CT DEP and the local health department to respond to health questions and concerns regarding the Pliny Street site.
4. CT DPH will review and evaluate soil data collected by CT DEP in the neighborhood surrounding the site and any other environmental data collected as part of additional investigations of the site.

## REFERENCES

EPA 2000. EPA Request for a Removal Action at the 76-80 Pliny Street Site, Action Memorandum. September 28, 2000.

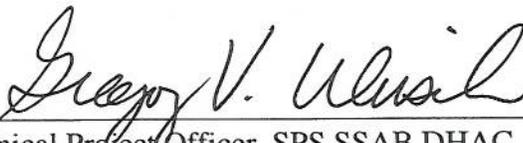
ERL 1990. Environmental Site Assessment of 76-86 Pliny Street, Hartford, Connecticut. Prepared by Environmental Risk Limited for Aronie Realty, July 1989.

ERL 1993. Limited Subsurface Investigation of 76-86 Pliny Street, Hartford, Connecticut. Prepared by Environmental Risk Limited for My Sisters Place, March 1993.

Fuss and O'Neill, 2000. Letter to Abraham Ford, City of Hartford, Licenses and Inspections Department from Charles Ahles, Senior Environmental Engineer I, Fuss and O'Neill and David Hurley, LEP, RPG, Fuss and O'Neill, August 29, 2000.

## CERTIFICATION

The Health Consultation for Soil and Groundwater data at 76-80 Pliny Street in Hartford Connecticut was prepared by the Connecticut Department of Public Health under a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). It is in accordance with approved methodology and procedures existing at the time the health consultation was initiated.



Technical Project Officer, SPS,SSAB,DHAC

The Division of Health Assessment and Consultation (DHAC), ATSDR, has reviewed this Health Consultation and concurs with its findings.



Chief, SSAB,DHAC,ATSDR

## **PREPARER OF HEALTH CONSULTATION**

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Epidemiologist  
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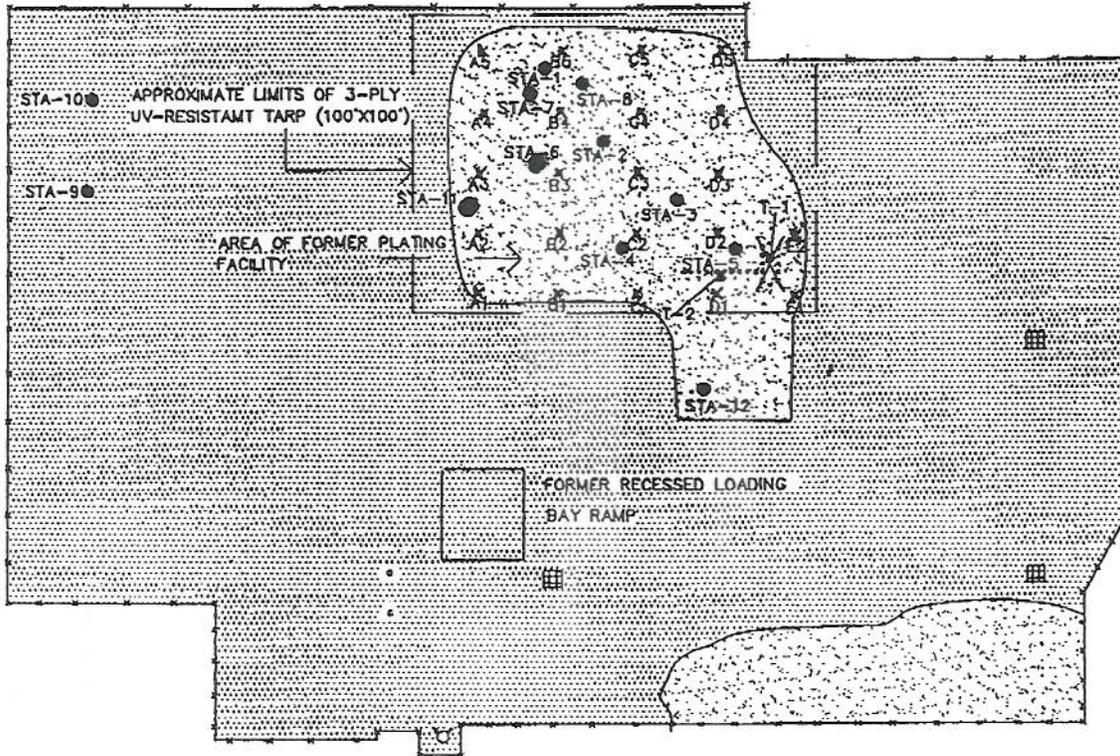
Greg V. Ulirsch  
Superfund Site Assessment Branch  
Division of Health Assessment and Consultation  
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

ATTACHMENT A

SITE PLAN



PLINY STREET



NOT TO SCALE

**LEGEND**

- ▣ CATCHBASIN
- ⊕ FIRE HYDRANT
- PIPE STICK UPS
- +— FENCE LINE
- +— FENCE LINE WITH GATE
- ▨ PAVED AREA
- ▨ GRAVEL AREA
- ⊗ FORMER UST
- SOIL SAMPLING LOCATION FIRST ROUND
- × SOIL SAMPLING LOCATION SECOND ROUND

SITE SKETCH

PLINY STREET (76-80)  
 76-80 PLINY STREET  
 HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT



MANAGERS DESIGNERS/CONSULTANTS

REGION I SUPERFUND TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE TEAM

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ATTACHMENT B

SITE LOCATION MAP WITH POPULATION ESTIMATES

**76-80 PLINY STREET  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**

**November, 2000**

**CERCLIS No. CTN000103101**

**Population Within One-Mile of Site \*:**

Total Population: 35,048

Frequency By Race:

White: 3,164

Black: 25,413

American

Indian: 120

Asian: 351

Other: 6131

Hispanic: 9393

Number of Children

Less Than Age 6: 4379

Number of Females of

Child Bearing Age: 9673

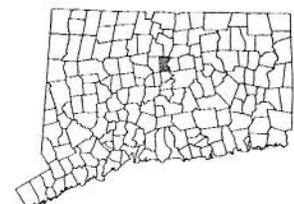
Number of Housing Units: 13,724

\* Population and housing data obtained from the 1990 Census, STF3A. Population and Housing numbers calculated using area-proportion techniques.



-  Town Boundaries
-  Streets
-  Site Location
-  One Mile Buffer

Index Map



State of Connecticut  
Department of Public Health  
Bureau of Community Health  
Environmental Epidemiology & Occupational Health

ATTACHMENT C  
ATSDR Public Health Hazard Categories

Category	Definition	Criteria
A. Urgent public health hazard	This category is used for sites that pose an urgent public health hazard as the result of short-term exposures to hazardous substances.	evidence exists that exposures have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur in the future AND estimated exposures are to a substance(s) at concentrations in the environment that, upon short-term exposures, can cause adverse health effects to any segment of the receptor population AND/OR community-specific health outcome data indicate that the site has had an adverse impact on human health that requires rapid intervention AND/OR physical hazards at the site pose an imminent risk of physical injury
B. Public health hazard	This category is used for sites that pose a public health hazard as the result of long-term exposures to hazardous substances.	evidence exists that exposures have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur in the future AND estimated exposures are to a substance(s) at concentrations in the environment that, upon long-term exposures, can cause adverse health effects to any segment of the receptor population AND/OR community-specific health outcome data indicate that the site has had an adverse impact on human health that requires intervention
C. Indeterminate public health hazard	This category is used for sites with incomplete information.	limited available data do not indicate that humans are being or have been exposed to levels of contamination that would be expected to cause adverse health effects; data or information are not available for all environmental media to which humans may be exposed AND there are insufficient or no community-specific health outcome data to indicate that the site has had an adverse impact on human health
D. No apparent public health hazard	This category is used for sites where human exposure to contaminated media is occurring or has occurred in the past, but the exposure is below a level of health hazard.	exposures do not exceed an ATSDR chronic MRL or other comparable value AND data are available for all environmental media to which humans are being exposed AND there are no community-specific health outcome data to indicate that the site has had an adverse impact on human health
E. No public health hazard	This category is used for sites that do not pose a public health hazard.	no evidence of current or past human exposure to contaminated media AND future exposures to contaminated media are not likely to occur AND there are no community-specific health outcome data to indicate that the site has had an adverse impact on human health

ATTACHMENT D

FACT SHEET

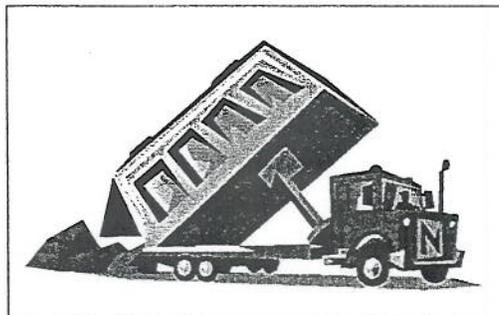
## **FORMER PROCTOR-SILEX SITE**

### **76-80 PLINY ST.**

The Connecticut Departments of Public Health (CTDPH) and Environmental Protection (CTDEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) have been asked by the City of Hartford to respond to pollution found at the old Proctor-Silex Site on Pliny Street. This fact sheet was put together to provide information about people's health related questions and concerns.

### **Background**

The site was used for manufacturing since the early 1900s. The earliest factory made military equipment and woolen slippers. The Proctor-Silex Company made coffee percolators for many years. After that, a company called Aronie Galleries made plastic bathroom and household products. The site was then used as an auto repair shop, a storage-center for used tires and a bottle redemption center. The buildings have been abandoned for many years and were torn down this summer. When some parts of the building were dug up, chromium, a toxic metal, was brought to the surface of the soil. The chromium was found to be at unsafe levels. A cover of soil and plastic was put down right away to prevent people from coming in contact with the chromium.



### **What is Chromium? Can It Make Me Sick?**

Chromium is a natural element that is found in 3 forms: chromium (0), chromium(III) and chromium (VI). Chromium(III) is an important part in our diet. Chromium is used in making steel and other metals, bricks and for chrome plating. Proctor-Silex likely used chromium to plate their products made in the Pliny Street factory. Chromium(VI) or hexavalent chromium was found at 76-80 Pliny St.

Most of what we know about how chromium(VI) affects our health comes from studying people who are exposed at work, usually at high levels.

- ⇒ Breathing very high levels in air can hurt and irritate your nose, lungs, stomach, and intestines.
- ⇒ Getting chromium on your skin may cause swelling, redness and may lead to skin ulcers
- ⇒ Workers have gotten cancer after breathing air with high levels of chromium.
- ⇒ From the information we have now, it is unlikely people on or near the site were exposed to levels that would cause these problems.

## Were People Exposed to Chromium?

CTDPH is now gathering and reviewing information on the site. At this time, we do not believe it is likely that anyone was exposed to high levels of chromium that could cause health problems.

*People worked cleaning bricks after the building was torn down. Were they exposed?*

It is our understanding that people were cleaning the bricks before the chromium was brought to the surface. Therefore they were probably not exposed.

*Children have played on the site many times. Were they exposed?*

The chromium was brought to the surface very recently. Therefore children playing on the site in the past were not likely to have been exposed. A locked fence was put up soon after the chromium was brought to the surface.

*Did the chromium blow in the air around the neighborhood?*

Chromium tends to stick to soil, making it heavier and less likely to be spread by the wind. The chromium was only recently dug up. This makes it less likely to have been spread by the wind., since the polluted soil was only uncovered for a short time.

*Why were there workers on the site in the white suits?*

Workers are required by OSHA to wear special protection when going on sites like Pliny St. This is true even when the actual risk may be low. Wearing the protection does not mean there is a danger to the public.

## What Are Future Activities For The Site?

- ⇒ USEPA is planning to do more sampling on the site.
- ⇒ CTDPH will be doing a further study of the site to find out more about health issues.
- ⇒ The site will be cleaned up to a level that will protect the community.
- ⇒ The agencies will work together to keep the neighborhood informed.

## For More Information:

### For Health Questions, Call:

Meg Harvey, CT DPH  
509-7742

Hartford Health Department  
543-8800

### For Clean-up Questions, Call

Gil Richards, CTDEP  
424-3523

Tom Hatzopoulos, USEPA  
617-918-1284

### For Development Questions, Call

Jeanne Webb Chavez,  
Hartford Brownfields Coordinator  
522-4888, ext. 6741

(This fact sheet is funded in part by funds from the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act trust fund through a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.)