



TO: Bennington State Office Building Stakeholder Team

FROM: Sharon Moffatt, RN, MSN, Acting Commissioner
Vermont Department of Health

THROUGH: Charlie Gingo, Agency of Human Services
Bennington District Field Director

RE: Soil Testing

DATE: January 29, 2007

Agency of Agriculture Soil Testing

Based on the fact that the Bennington State Office Building is on a site that was once a cornfield, the Health Department asked the Agency of Agriculture to take soil samples to test for corn herbicides that could have been used by farmers at the time. These include: acetochlor; alachlor; atrazine; dimethenamid; metolachlor; pendimethalin; and simazine.

Two soil samples were taken in December from the building site (former site of the Department of Corrections community garden) and from the bordering hay field on the north end of the building. Final results show NO concentrations of chemicals of concern.

Only at the hay field site, alachlor was detected at very low levels (0.117 micrograms per gram) and trace levels of atrazine (0.012 micrograms per gram). These amounts are so low that even long-term exposure would not be a health concern.

No amounts of alachlor or atrazine were detected at the building site. No amounts of any of the other chemicals were detected at either site.

The Department of Environmental Conservation is also sending soil from samples from sites they are testing in the area (see below) for further analysis by the Agency of Agriculture.

EPA/Department of Environmental Conservation Soil Testing

The Health Department also asked the Department of Environmental Conservation to consult with EPA about whether there is any possibility that contaminants from the JARD Superfund site could have migrated to the State

Office Building site. Although this is unlikely, EPA agreed to extend their testing to the State Office Building site to test for PCBs, zinc and beryllium.

Soil samples were taken on January 25 from six locations (three picnic areas, one area by the pond at the Veteran's home, and two in the football practice field at the Veteran's Home). EPA's mobile lab tested for PCBs and NONE were detected.

The soil samples have been sent to Endyne Laboratory in Williston to expedite testing for zinc and beryllium.

All results will be reported as soon as they are confirmed.