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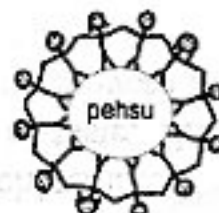
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November 4, 2005

Dr. Daniel Lefkowitz
2057 La Voie Court
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

Dear Dr. Lefkowitz,

Thank you for contacting the Mount Sinai Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit regarding polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the window caulking at your son's school. In the fall of 2004, you privately had a piece of caulking tested from the French Hill Elementary School where your son, Evan, attends. You became concerned when the level of PCBs was elevated in that sample (18,000 ppm).

The French Hill Elementary School was built in 1969 and the windows were replaced in 2003, exposing the PCB containing window caulking and leaving remnants on the soil below. The piece of caulking you tested, by report, was found on the ground surrounding the school.

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are mixtures of as many as 200 chlorinated compounds. PCBs exist as solids, liquids, or vapors with no smell or taste. Prior to 1977 when PCBs were banned secondary to health effects, the mixtures were found in a variety of items including fluorescent lighting, televisions, refrigerators, and window caulking.

PCBs do not break down readily in the environment and can remain for long periods in substances like soil, to which they bind readily. Humans can be exposed to PCBs by ingestion, breathing vapors, or direct physical contact. Ingestion is often the result of eating fish caught in contaminated water. However, since children have developmentally normal hand-to-mouth behaviors and may not wash their hands before eating, the contaminated soil can be a source of ingestion for them.

High level PCB exposure is known to have multiple health effects. Most common are skin findings, such as acne or rashes. Animal and human studies show a risk to the immune system with exposure to PCBs, including decreased resistance to Epstein-Barr virus and increased risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Monkeys show impaired neurological development and, similarly, humans can have learning deficits and decreased activity. Thyroid hormone levels can be affected in both animals and humans.

PCBs cause cancer in animals. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifies PCBs as probably carcinogenic to humans. For instance, individuals with occupational exposures to high levels of PCBs have increased rates

of liver and skin cancer. The types of PCBs that accumulate in fish and bind to sediments are considered the most carcinogenic. This suggests that the ingestion of PCB contaminated soil, an action common in children, might put children at higher risk for cancer.

In general, children are exquisitely vulnerable to environmental toxins. Children have normal hand-to-mouth behaviors that increase ingestion of soil and dust with potential contaminants. Children drink, eat, and breathe more, pound for pound, than adults. As a result, children have the potential of increased exposure to PCBs and many other synthetic chemicals. They also have a longer "shelf life," meaning that they have more years to ascertain the effect of these exposures. This is especially important in cases of diseases which manifest themselves years after the initial exposure.

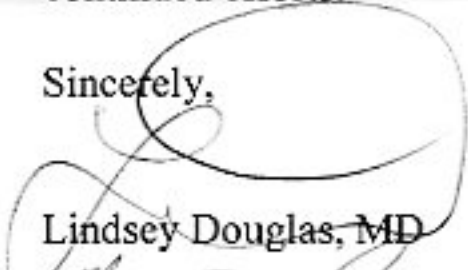
PCBs in the French Hill Elementary School can represent a risk for the students who spend from 35 to 50 hours per week in and around the facility. Decreasing exposure will help protect the children from potential health effects now and in the future. Removing window caulking known to contain PCBs in the school will remove the source. Discouraging hand-to-mouth behavior with the surrounding contaminated soil will decrease further exposure. Removing any soil known to be contaminated with PCB will decrease the risk even more.

We are aware that you have already been successful in many of the above recommended measures. In the summer of 2005, after soil sampling, 40 meters were excavated around the perimeter of French Hill School. In addition, areas with known PCB were encapsulated to decrease student contact.


The Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit applauds your work in protecting the children of French Hill Elementary School from exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs.) We also continue to follow and support you in your effort to decrease exposure to PCBs at other sites.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with further questions and updates on your continued efforts.

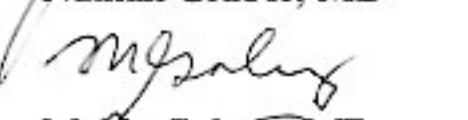
Sincerely,



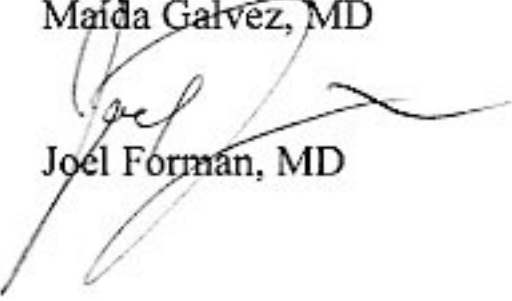
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