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Richard Ponak 2/24/22

EPA Lead Inspector Rich Ponak Date
Signature/Date Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Division
(3ED23)

Aquanetta Dickens 3/8/2022

Supervisor Aquanetta Dickens Date
Signature/Date Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Division
(3ED23)

I. Introduction

On January 19, 2022, a CAA Asbestos NESHAP Inspection was conducted at the former Saint Michaels Boys Home located at 72 Eihab Lane, Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania.

a. Summary of Site / Facility

Saint Michaels Boys Home is a former childrens home. The facility is being renovated to become a summer camp.

b. Entry and opening conference

EPA Region III Inspector Richard Ponak and Pennsylvania DEP Inspector Karen Shedlock arrived at the facility at approximately 10:25am on January 19, 2022, for an unannounced inspection. Upon arrival, Inspector Ponak presented credentials to Anthony King and Walt Winters. King and Winters stated they worked for the owner of Camp Lamala. Inspector Ponak informed Mr. King and Mr. Winters that this was a For Cause EPA Asbestos NESHAP Inspection based on a tip/complaint received by EPA. Inspector Ponak informed Mr. King the complaint stated there was improper removal of asbestos containing floor tile (VAT) being conducted during the renovation of the former Saint Michaels Boys Home. Mr. King stated that the flooring company was currently working on the second floor. Inspector Ponak informed the parties that he and Inspector Shedlock were going to inspect the work being conducted on the second floor.

II. Process Description

- Not Applicable to the inspection.

III. Site / Facility Walkthrough

Inspector Ponak and Inspector Shedlock proceeded to the second floor. After exiting the stairwell, the inspectors observed trash cans with suspect dry and crushed VAT. Inspector Ponak observed someone identified as Brian from Giant Floor removing floor tile from Room 217. Brian was chipping and scraping floor tile with a metal scraper. Brian was not using water and visible dust was observed in the air. Brian was not wearing any personal protective equipment (PPE). When Brian saw Inspector Ponak, he stopped working and said, “this is bad stuff, they knew it was asbestos, and now they are making me clean it up.” Brian stated, “don’t breathe this in”. Inspector Ponak showed Brian his credentials. Brian would not give his last name. Inspector Ponak left the area to put on PPE. When Inspector Ponak returned to the work area, he observed Brian leaving the site. Inspector Ponak spoke to Al Thompson of Giant Floor. Mr. Thompson stated he worked for Giant Floor and was there to put down the new flooring. Mr. Thompson stated that most of the rooms just had carpet. Inspector Ponak showed Mr. Thompson the suspect VAT debris throughout the second floor. Mr. Thompson stated the tile must have been removed before he arrived on site. Mr. Thompson stated that a box truck with cardboard drums of the tile left the site last Friday. Mr. Thompson stated that he didn’t know who took the tile waste off-site. Inspector Ponak advised Mr. Thompson to not continue working on the second floor due to the risk of possible asbestos contamination.

Inspector Ponak continued to inspect the second floor work area. Inspector Ponak observed suspect VAT debris throughout the second floor. Piles of suspect VAT debris was observed in rooms 217, 218, 219, 220. Inspector Ponak measured these rooms. Inspector Ponak took photographs and collected nine samples of suspect VAT on the second floor.

IV. Records Review

No records to review

V. Closing Conference

At the conclusion of the second-floor inspection, Inspector Ponak spoke with the property owner, Sam Woodrap, and Giant Floor representatives, John Rostock and Roman Rubando. Inspector Ponak informed the parties that there was possible asbestos contamination on the second floor. Inspector Ponak advised the parties that everyone should stay off the second floor until the samples were analyzed. The parties stated they did not know the tiles were asbestos. Inspector Ponak advised the parties to take their own samples, since it may take time for his samples to get analyzed. Inspector Ponak informed the parties that there were possible Asbestos NESHAP violations if the samples were greater than one percent asbestos-containing. The conference concluded, and Inspectors Ponak and Shedlock left the site.

Additional Correspondence

Giant Floor agreed to send their sample results to Inspector Ponak.

VI. List of Attachments

Attachment #	Description	# of Pages/Items
Attachment 1	Photo Log	1
Attachment 2	Photos	1