

May 27, 2014

RDC/John Poe Architects
116 East Third Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402

Attn: Mr. Tom Hesse

Re: Crawlspace Entry Issues
Hampton Veteran's Affairs Building – Wing 137C
100 Emancipation Drive
Hampton, Virginia
Terracon Project Number 70117083

Dear Mr. Hesse:

As previously discussed, on May 21, 2014 Terracon representative Mr. Tom Herrick entered the subject crawlspace to test for additional asbestos containing materials. When receiving instructions to enter the crawlspace, Terracon was informed that another person had previously entered the same space and noted an odd odor and became ill after being in the crawlspace. With this information, Mr. Herrick was provided with a MultiRae gas meter to test for some parameters that could indicate a hazardous atmosphere.

During the asbestos sampling task that led him to enter the crawlspace, Mr. Herrick did not see or smell anything unusual. Mr. Herrick did, however, observe two fans with flexible ducting, typically used during confined space entry, blowing fresh air into the crawlspace. Approximately 5 minutes after completing the crawlspace entry, Mr. Herrick reported that he felt nauseated. He indicated that this nausea lingered for approximately 15 minutes before subsiding.

Our initial testing in the space consisted of measurements of oxygen, carbon monoxide, potentially explosive gases or vapors, volatile organic compounds, and hydrogen sulfide. The results of our testing indicated that the oxygen concentration was normal, and none of the other parameters was detected while Mr. Herrick was in the space. However, because two individuals became ill after working in the crawlspace, Terracon recommends that further investigation be conducted to determine whether something in the crawlspace is causing the illness.

Until the absence of a hazardous atmosphere can be confirmed, persons entering the space should do so using appropriate respiratory protection which, in this case, should consist of a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), an airline respirator, or a full-facepiece negative pressure respirator fitted with combination particulate, organic vapor, and acid gas cartridges. This type of cartridge offers protection from a wide variety of airborne contaminants and is likely to offer proper protection in this environment.



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It should be noted that the purpose of Terracon's initial testing of the space was for the protection of our employee who entered the crawlspace to collect asbestos samples. Our testing was not exhaustive, and the results of our testing may not be relied upon by others entering the crawlspace. Terracon recommends that an indoor air quality professional assess the crawlspace before anyone else is permitted to enter the space. Terracon has professionals who specialize in indoor air quality assessments, and I would be happy to discuss this issue with you further, should you desire.

If you have any additional questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,
Terracon Consultants, Inc.

Scott D. Rohlf CIH
Division Director
Industrial Hygiene Services


J. Rush Bowers CIH, CSP
Authorized Project Reviewer