

News Releases

DHEC News Release: PDATE: DHEC Fact Sheet Regarding the Investigation into Lead and Arsenic Left from Former Fertilizer Plant in the Rosewood Area

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 26, 2012

UPDATE: DHEC Fact Sheet Regarding the Investigation into Lead and Arsenic Left from Former Fertilizer Plant in the Rosewood Area

1. As with any type of hazard or pollution, the hazard itself is only half of the equation. Even if higher-than-normal levels of potentially hazardous chemicals or elements are identified in the soil, there must be a route of exposure and a high enough dose to be a risk to people. **Since the Rosewood area is on City of Columbia water, the most common route of exposure has been eliminated.**

2. The chemicals DHEC has identified in the soil are remnants of a fertilizer operation that closed decades before the existence of these neighborhoods, DHEC, the EPA, and regulatory safeguards that have been put in place to protect the health of our people and our environment.

3. There are two (2) air quality permits involved in the purchase by Associated Asphalt Columbia, LLC: **a) the Colprovia Asphalts, Division of Seaco Inc. cold mix asphalt plant and b) the Seaco Inc. asphalt emulsion plant.** To date, Associated Asphalt Columbia, LLC has submitted a transfer of ownership request for the cold mix asphalt plant permit. DHEC has also received a request to transfer the Seaco Inc. asphalt emulsion plant permit from a state operating permit to a fuel combustion registration permit. **Under these administrative changes, there has been no request to increase emissions, nor do these changes allow an increase in emissions.**

Regarding reports of "expansion" at the site:

4. **At this time, the DHEC has not received any requests to expand, alter, or add emissions.** If we do receive an application, we will review to determine if all applicable air regulations can be met. *The South Carolina Pollution Control Act requires that DHEC issue a permit if the project meets these regulations.*

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Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.scdhec.gov/HomeAndEnvironment/Pollution/CleanUpPrograms/OngoingProjectsUpdates/SeacoSite/>

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