



CENTER FOR PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL OVERSIGHT

A project of the Pacific Studies Center

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March 17, 2021

Don Chuck  
Chief, Environmental Management Division  
NASA Ames Research Center  
Moffett Field, CA

Dear Don:

It has come to our attention that the federal Department of Health and Human Services is considering utilizing dormitory-type buildings at Moffett Field to house migrant children. It appears that candidate buildings lie directly above the Moffett-MEW Superfund regional trichloroethylene (TCE) plume. Since the housing proposal is already a sensitive issue, nationally, we believe it imperative that NASA conduct new indoor air sampling, as well as mitigation if necessary, to ensure that building occupants will not be exposed to unacceptably high levels of TCE vapors.

It is our understanding that the NASA Lodge buildings, Buildings 583, are among those under consideration. The indoor air was last sampled there in July, 2011. Not only are those results out of date, but the sampling was conducted in July, instead of the winter. In most states, warm-weather sampling is not acceptable by itself because it tends to understate TCE concentrations.

Technologies exist to test for TCE in these and other buildings in near real time. It is possible, in consultation with U.S. EPA, to determine quickly if the indoor air is acceptably safe, or if mitigation such as ventilation is necessary to achieve safe levels of TCE.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lenny Siegel".

Lenny Siegel  
Executive Director

CC: Alana Lee, U.S. EPA Superfund Project Manager