



TO: Bennington State Office Building Stakeholder Team

FROM: Sharon Moffatt, RN, MSN, Commissioner  
Vermont Department of Health

THROUGH: Charlie Gingo, Agency of Human Services  
Bennington District Field Director

RE: Investigation Update

DATE: November 15, 2006

Background information, updates, and reports on the investigation as it progresses are always available on the Health Department's website: [healthvermont.gov](http://healthvermont.gov), then select *Community Public Health*.

#### **Health Survey – Former Employees**

Surveys are in from former employees and contractors who worked 20 or more hours per week in the building. A total of 320 surveys were sent, 116 responded and were eligible, and 17 responded but were not eligible, for a response rate of 38 percent. The data are being analyzed now and will be reported back in the next few weeks.

#### **Community Health Assessment**

A report on the community health assessment is expected to be completed within the next few weeks.

The four major private insurance companies (Cigna, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, MVP, and CBA ) along with Medicaid have provided their sarcoidosis claim data for 2001-2005. These companies cover approximately 68 percent of insured Vermonters.

Data analysts at the Health Department are working to develop a database of unduplicated records. Once that work is complete, they will compare the total number of people with a sarcoidosis diagnosis by county to try to determine whether Bennington County has a higher rate than other counties and the state as a whole. They also hope to be able to use this data to compare Vermont and national sarcoidosis rates.

#### **NIOSH Employee Medical Screening Results**

On November 1, the Health Department received the aggregate results from NIOSH. Correlation of the aggregate results with the employee health survey is underway.

Although we had hoped to have it completed sooner, analysis of the data will not be completed until mid-December.

### **Relocation Planning Recommendations**

Following is the Department of Health recommendation on what office items can and cannot be moved into temporary office space. Additional recommendations may be made by the building diagnostics consultant.

Do not plan to take:

- anything that you do not need including files, furniture, books, etc.  
These items will be cleaned and placed in long-term storage.
- anything that has been water-damaged or smells moldy.  
These items will be cleaned or properly disposed of.

Plan to take:

- needed solid furniture including desks, filing cabinets, tables, chairs, bookcases, etc.
- needed upholstered furniture
- needed electronic equipment including phones, computers, keyboards, etc.
- needed books, files and papers
- personal effects

BGS will have all items cleaned before they are moved. Solid, non-porous furniture will be wet-wiped. Semi-porous and porous furniture will be vacuumed with a HEPA filtered vacuum followed by wet-wipe.

### **Soil**

The Department of Health continues to review the historical land use and pollution records for the Bennington area to determine whether these issues could impact the soil around the building. To this point, following review of extensive Department of Environmental Conservation records, we have found nothing to suggest that the soil is a health concern.

Because the Bennington State Office building is not located on a hazardous waste site and indoor air testing did not reveal the presence of any unusual volatile organic compounds, disturbing the soil should not cause a health risk to occupants in either the Bennington State Office building or modular units at the site.

We will continue to review data and information as it becomes available from the Department of Agriculture, Department of Environmental Conservation and the Environmental Protection Agency, and report back to the Building Stakeholder team.