



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary of Health

Date: May 19, 2009

To: Senator John D. Rockefeller, IV
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate

From: Dr. David Krause,
State Toxicologist
Florida Department of Health

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Brief Bio for David Krause, Ph.D., MSPH, CIH

Dr. David Krause is the State Toxicologist for the Florida Department of Health. He holds advanced degrees in Toxicology and Environmental and Occupational Health from the University of South Florida, College of Public Health. He also holds the professional certification of Certified Industrial Hygienist from the American Board of Industrial Hygiene. Over the past 15 years Dr. Krause has served on state and federal committees to evaluate risks that people encounter in the indoor environments at home, work, and school in both private practice and as a public health official.

Written Testimony of Florida DOH

Florida DOH activities related to complaints from the public of copper corrosion in homes associated with the presence of drywall imported from China.

In August 2008 County Health Department and Florida Department of Health staff began receiving reports of sulfur-like odors in relatively new homes built since 2004. Initial reports were limited to homes in south Florida counties. Inspections by County Health Department indoor air program staff revealed these homes also exhibited severe corrosion of copper on air conditioning coils that eventually caused the air conditioning systems to fail due to the loss of Freon. A connection between the sulfur odors, copper corrosion, and Chinese Made Drywall was reported by some builders and their consultants. This eventually led to discussions between Florida Department of Health (FL DOH) staff and a handful of environmental consultants who were studying the problem. Throughout September and October of 2008 DOH staff learned of studies by private consultants representing a builder, a drywall manufacture and a handful of homeowners.

As the number of citizen complaints and effected counties increased FL DOH initiated steps to register complaints in a systematic manner; solicit information from consultants and builders; request assistance from technical specialists in Federal Agencies, primarily the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR); We conducted media interviews in response to requests from local and national news outlets and sought funding to conduct some preliminary site visits and laboratory tests. In late January 2009 Mr. Tim Wallace and I performed our first site assessment of 12 homes in 6 different south Florida counties.

During our preliminary assessment of these homes we collected samples of gypsum drywall from homes experiencing copper corrosion for material testing and analysis, but did not collect any air samples to measure chemical concentrations. These preliminary site visits revealed that the “sulfur-like” odors were often not present in homes and, when present, did not resemble the “rotten-egg odor” described in some reports. The great

Written Testimony of Florida DOH

variability of odors experienced in effected homes suggests that odor is a poor predictor of this problem. However black corrosion of copper on air conditioning coils and other Freon-carrying lines was a consistent visual indicator in homes with this problem. Further inspection revealed wide spread corrosion of exposed copper electrical wires in all effected homes, with some homeowners reporting electrical appliance and light switch failures. Some homes had natural gas furnaces with brass and other metal fittings that could suffer from accelerated corrosion.

Information gathered during these preliminary assessments enabled FL DOH to develop a Case Definition for homes experiencing copper corrosion associated with the use of Chinese made drywall. Using the case definition FL DOH has published on its website a “self assessment guide” that enables homeowners and inspectors to quickly determine if a home is affected by performing a thorough visual inspection and asking a few specific questions, without chemical testing.

A review of air sampling data provided by Environ International, a private consulting firm hired by Lennar Homes, did not reveal levels of sulfur-containing gasses that exceeded any published health thresholds or that posed a health hazard to building occupants. However, limitations in the data suggested the need for a more robust assessment of occupant exposures to corrosive gasses and possible by-products of chemical interactions they may have with other building materials or household chemicals.

Florida DOH has engaged other state agencies to address the potential fire hazards related to corrosion of electrical wiring, safety equipment, and gas service fittings; the remediation of effected homes; drywall disposal; and consumer protection from unscrupulous groups seeking to defraud homeowners with unproven and potentially dangerous “overnight remedies”. These efforts are being orchestrated through an Incident Management Team currently lead by the Florida Department of Health.

Written Testimony of Florida DOH

Participation of our Federal partner agencies has so far consisted of analyzing two samples of drywall by an EPA laboratory, a preliminary site visit by a technical team from the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) on March 26, 2009, and a site visit by a team of technical specialists from US EPA and ATSDR on May 4, 2009. A multitude of conference calls and planning meetings have occurred and more are scheduled with US EPA and ATSDR, however communications with the CPSC have been limited.

Efforts are currently underway to perform indoor air testing in effected homes to quantify the concentrations of corrosive gasses emitted from problematic drywall, and other potential by-products of chemical reactions with building materials, paints, or household chemicals. Testing in Florida homes is proceeding in three phases, each necessary to build the foundation for interpreting the volumes of data that will be generated in later studies. The type of testing being used to measure the highly reactive reduced sulfur gasses emitted from Chinese made drywall is technically challenging, requiring strict protocols to ensure valid and reproducible results. In order to produce data with the sensitivity and accuracy needed to assess human health risks, labor intensive sample collection and laboratory analysis is required because direct reading instruments are not readily available for many of the gasses being tested. The three phased study begins with a assessment and validation of available test methods (Phase I), an in-depth assessment of chemicals present and their concentrations in a small number of homes (Phase II), and finally a focused characterization of occupant exposures to chemicals of concern in a wide population of effected homes (Phase III).

Initial hesitation by Federal agencies to fully engage the necessary resources is transforming into a more active partnership. Letters from Governor Crist on April 3rd and 29th to the heads of the EPA, CDC, and CPSC, in addition to inquiries from Senator Nelson have prompted clear commitments from the US EPA and the CPSC (See attached correspondence). However a commitment to conduct the testing necessary to determine if a health hazard exists has been unclear and falls short in some ways. Acting on the request of Florida DOH, ATSDR, and the CPSC, the US EPA has committed to testing 2

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effected homes and 1 control home in Florida. This testing is scheduled to begin during the first week of June. Florida DOH will perform parallel testing of a third affected home and control home, demonstrating our commitment to safeguarding the health of Floridians, by increasing the available data from these early efforts.

While the results anticipated from testing of three affected homes are absolutely necessary to develop the scientific foundation for later evaluations, they cannot be expected to deliver all of the information necessary to conclude if a public health hazard exists in the vast number of homes where this product may have been installed.

At least five major areas of investigation should proceed in order to understand the impacts on public health and safety. First we must validate the estimated amount of Chinese made drywall imported during the period in question. How these estimates were derived are uncertain, and could grossly over or under estimate the number of potentially effected homes. Second, a wide scoping study of homes throughout Florida and other states to quantify the chemical exposures that occupants experience in homes with problematic drywall and corrosion. We understand that the CPSC is commissioning such a study, however FL DOH requests the ability to provide input on the study design and implementation. The number of homes and what testing protocols will be used are critical aspects of such a study and greatly impact the relevance of its findings. Third, determine how the corrosion of electrical wiring, appliances, and gas fittings affect the risk of fire and electrical shock. Fourth, an assessment of exposure to the chemicals present in affected homes and what effects they may have on the long term health of families living in these homes. Due to the sparse chronic toxicity data available on some of the chemicals emitted from problematic drywall, a direct answer to the question of chronic health risks may be unavailable. Meetings with epidemiologists from the Centers for Disease Control-National Centers for Environmental Health (CDC-NCEH) are scheduled with FL DOH to consider the need and utility of a registry and /or cohort study to follow exposed and unexposed populations. Finally, a comprehensive program to develop evidence-based recommendations for remediation and repair of effected homes is necessary to ensure the long-term health and safety of occupants.

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The multitude of policy decision necessary to address questions of liability, insurance, re-sale of homes, and the implication these homes will have on mortgage holders are beyond the authority and expertise of public health officials. However, these are commonly asked questions I have received from effected homeowners. It is likely that the need to develop public policy related to these homes will outpace the results of scientific studies.

Florida requests the three following commitments

- 1) Funding and resources to enable FL DOH and its Federal partners to move forward with efforts to assess the scope and severity of this issue and ascertain if there are threats to public health associated with the use of Chinese made drywall.
- 2) Commitment from the CPSC and US EPA to integrate FL DOH and other relevant state agencies in the development of assessment strategies, review of resulting data, and development of public health and safety messages.
- 3) Funding and resources for CDC-NCEH to perform appropriate long term follow-up of exposed families to address questions of chronic health concerns.

Summary of agency activities in Florida

The following description of agency objectives and activities has been provided to demonstrate the broad spectrum of issues under consideration by the State of Florida. This summary reflects the respective agencies' activities and priorities as of Monday May 18, 2009. Input from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) was not available by the deadline to submit written testimony for this hearing by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

DOH Objectives

1. Determine if volatiles (reduced sulfur gases and volatile organic compounds) pose a health hazard to occupants (w ATSDR)
2. Assess the need for possible long-term epidemiological study (w CDC)
3. Occupational health issues of mitigation personnel (w OSHA/NIOSH)

Recently Completed Tasks:

- DOH:
 - Conducted Operation Drywall state partner's meeting Wednesday afternoon (5-13-09)
 - Provided drywall samples to State Fire Marshal for testing Chinese drywall effects on fire safety of electrical outlets and smoke and carbon dioxide detectors
 - Submitted samples for DEP (UF) analysis for presence/absence of asbestos in drywall
 - Extended invitation for federal partners' participation in Operation Drywall State Partners conference calls Fridays at 9 am
 - Working with EPA, ATSDR, and CPSC to develop testing protocol for Phase II and

DOH Future Actions:

- DOH:
 - Develop coordinated integrated Incident Action Plan, IAP (ongoing weekly)
 - CDC/NCEH site visit in May (29th ?) to consider potential cohort study and registry

Communications

- Develop a graphical timeline projecting milestones into the future
- Develop press/media plan for June sampling in Lee County
- Request assistance with steps 3A and 5 of DOH's self-assessment, re: hiring professionals with DCA/DBPR to provide appropriate guidelines to professionals
- Media Briefing TBA for end of May 2009 (week of May 25th?)
- Consider Operation Drywall state website on myflorida.com to link unified command agencies. Link to building code professional guidance provided by DCA

Testing

- Identify and coordinate a location in Lee County for EPA mobile lab (end of May through June)
- Chris Dowell, NIOSH representative, has contacted Lennar to arrange for NIOSH representatives to visit a few remediation projects and initiate some guidance on remediation for Chinese Drywall. Coordination through Dr. David Krause's office and the CHDs has been requested before their arrival for on-site visits [David]
- Submit DOH and EPA ERT test results to Department of Agriculture's Environmental Services for possible presence and impact of fungicide
- Finalize Phase II testing protocol & Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) to define testing and data handling procedures (w/ EPA, CPSC, ATSDR)
- Develop MOU with CPSC for their intended testing and to define each agencies' roles and responsibilities regarding interpretation and release of findings.
- 3 Phase Testing Strategy:

Summary of agency activities in Florida

Phase I- Scoping and Validation study to evaluate available test methods. Preliminary data should be available May 21, 2009 re: indoor and outdoor reduced sulfide gas and VOC testing methods

Phase II DOH, US EPA-ERT mobile lab will arrive the last week in May 2009 sampling 3 homes in June. Testing will be 24 hours in severely affected homes, for hydrogen sulfide, and other sulfur gas emissions from drywall and from chemical reactions with building materials and household chemicals. Preliminary data at end of June to be used to develop protocols for Phase III testing.

Phase III: To be completed by CPSC ? (DOH's role is uncertain).

Target Date of August 31, 2009 for delivery of Public Health Message and publication of Interim Guidance for...

- 1) Testing and Assessment;
- 2) Remediation and;
- 3) Disposal of drywall from homes.

State Fire Marshal

Agency Representative: Julius Halas, Director, Division of State Fire Marshal

Phone: (850) 413-3600

Email: Julius.Halas@myfloridacfo.com

Web: <http://www.fldfs.com/SFM>

A Report of Activities by the State of Florida, Department of Financial Services, Division of State Fire Marshal as Regards Effects of Tainted Drywall in relation to Fire Investigations

The Division of State Fire Marshal led by Director Julius Halas and representing the Honorable Alex Sink, Chief Financial Officer and State Fire Marshal of the State of Florida provide this synopsis of activities to the United States Senate hearing set for Thursday May 21, 2009:

To date the Division of State Fire Marshal has reviewed the current known data on the suspect drywall as well as the reports of corrosion of electrical connections and other metallic surfaces.

The Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigation has advised field investigation personnel to be aware of the issue, to familiarize themselves with the indicators of the use of the tainted product, and in the course of their normal investigations, to document any found indicators and inform their superiors via Chain-of-Command. If instances are found, the information will be transmitted to the Unified Command so that the appropriate agency can seek to obtain any wiring or appliances for forensic engineering evaluations by the appropriate State, Federal, or Contract partner.

The Bureau of Forensic Fire and Explosives Analysis is constructing test chambers made of new untainted materials and materials from homes suspected of containing tainted drywall. These chambers will be equipped with smoke detectors (2), a carbon monoxide detector, electrical wiring, a sprinkler head, and other materials. Due to their size and construction, the chambers will concentrate the vapors emitted by the drywall. The concentrated vapor's effects on these various materials and systems can be documented. Periodic samples for chemical analysis will be withdrawn. At the end of the 90 day testing period, an engineering evaluation of the effect of the concentrated vapors on the system and whether they would suffer failure or present an increase in fire risk will be performed. During the test period the information and data will be funneled to the Consumer Products Safety Commission and other State and

Summary of agency activities in Florida

Federal partners in this project. Should a fire risk be demonstrated by the data and testing, an advisory will be prepared for field investigators and inspectors discussing indicators and methods for assessment.

A site visit coordinated by the State of Florida Department of Health may be attended by representatives of the Division of State Fire Marshal, but is dependent on availability of personnel and travel funds.

In order to see this work to its completion, the Division of State Fire Marshal is investing significant hours by its personnel away from their normal tasks. The Division is also purchasing the materials and supplies for the chambers and testing. Existing monitoring equipment will be used. Travel funds for any site visits will have to be diverted from other projects.

Should funding by the federal government become available, the supplemental funding to aid in the completion of our efforts is estimated at:

Overtime funds for personnel for the next 90 days.....	\$12,500.00	
Contract funds for engineering evaluations of materials.....	\$10,000.00	
Travel Funds for personnel to assess suspected sites	\$ 6,000.00	
Materials for construction of test chambers and the components in them	\$ 1,500.00	
<u>Upgrade to testing instruments and monitoring devices</u>	<u>\$12,000.00</u>	
Total		\$42,000.00

Office of the Attorney General of Florida

Agency Representative: Michael Palecki, Chief, Bureau of Economic Crimes

Phone: 850-414-3634

Email: Michael.Palecki@myfloridalegal.com

Web: <http://myfloridalegal.com>

- We have met with builders, suppliers and one of the major manufacturers, Knauf. Our fact-finding efforts continue. We are in the process of requesting or subpoenaing the records of entities in the supply chain.
- We have discussed the possibility of a universal settlement fund with Knauf, suppliers and builders. These discussions continue.
- We have been receiving and documenting consumer complaints and identifying victims. We have conducted field investigations of affected homes.
- We are gathering evidence and preparing for possible legal action against parties involved in the manufacture, import and distribution.
- We are investigating reports of scams against home owners. These include bogus test kits, home inspections by "experts" with no qualifications, sale of sprays and applications that do nothing to solve the corrosion problem and sale of ozone generators that may actually accelerate the corrosive process. We have issued a consumer alert, widely reported in Florida media, to warn consumers.

Summary of agency activities in Florida

- We are preparing to meet with persons who claim to have developed technology to remediate the corrosive properties of tainted drywall without the need to remove it from the home. They will be asked to present their methodologies for study and review by scientists with our task force.
 - We have met with homebuilders and one supplier that have been remediating homes by removing and replacing the tainted drywall. We have scheduled a meeting with this group to discuss their drywall removal experiences, methodologies, costs, and best practices.
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Department of Business and Professional Regulation

Agency Representative: G.W. Harrell, Executive Director, Construction Industry Licensing Board

Phone: 850-487-9516

Email: GW.Harrell@dbpr.state.fl.us

Web: <http://myflorida.com/dbpr>

- The DBPR has received less than ten complaints against construction contractors for the installation of defective (Chinese) drywall. None of these complaints have contained sufficient evidence to warrant contractor discipline, as there is no indication that the contractors knew, or should have known, the drywall was defective.
 - The DBPR has posted information on the department's website regarding licensure requirements and the submission of complaints for defective drywall installation. The DBPR has also posted a link to the Department of Health drywall information on the department's website.
 - The DBPR has worked with the Department of Community Affairs and other state agencies to develop remediation guidelines for the identification and removal of defective drywall. The DBPR is prepared to assist with the electronic dissemination of the remediation guidelines to construction contractors and the public when completed.
 - The DBPR has assigned the Executive Director of the Construction Industry Licensing Board and the Deputy Director of the Division of Regulation to represent the department on the Department of Health's "Operation Drywall" incident response team.
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Department of Community Affairs

Agency Representative: Sherri Coven, Director of Intergovernmental and Public Affairs

Phone: (850) 922-1600

Email: Sheri.Coven@dca.state.fl.us

Web: <http://www.dca.state.fl.us>

Long term objective is to improve the Florida Building Code provisions that currently cover the performance testing and evaluation of gypsum board materials so that this problem does not happen again.

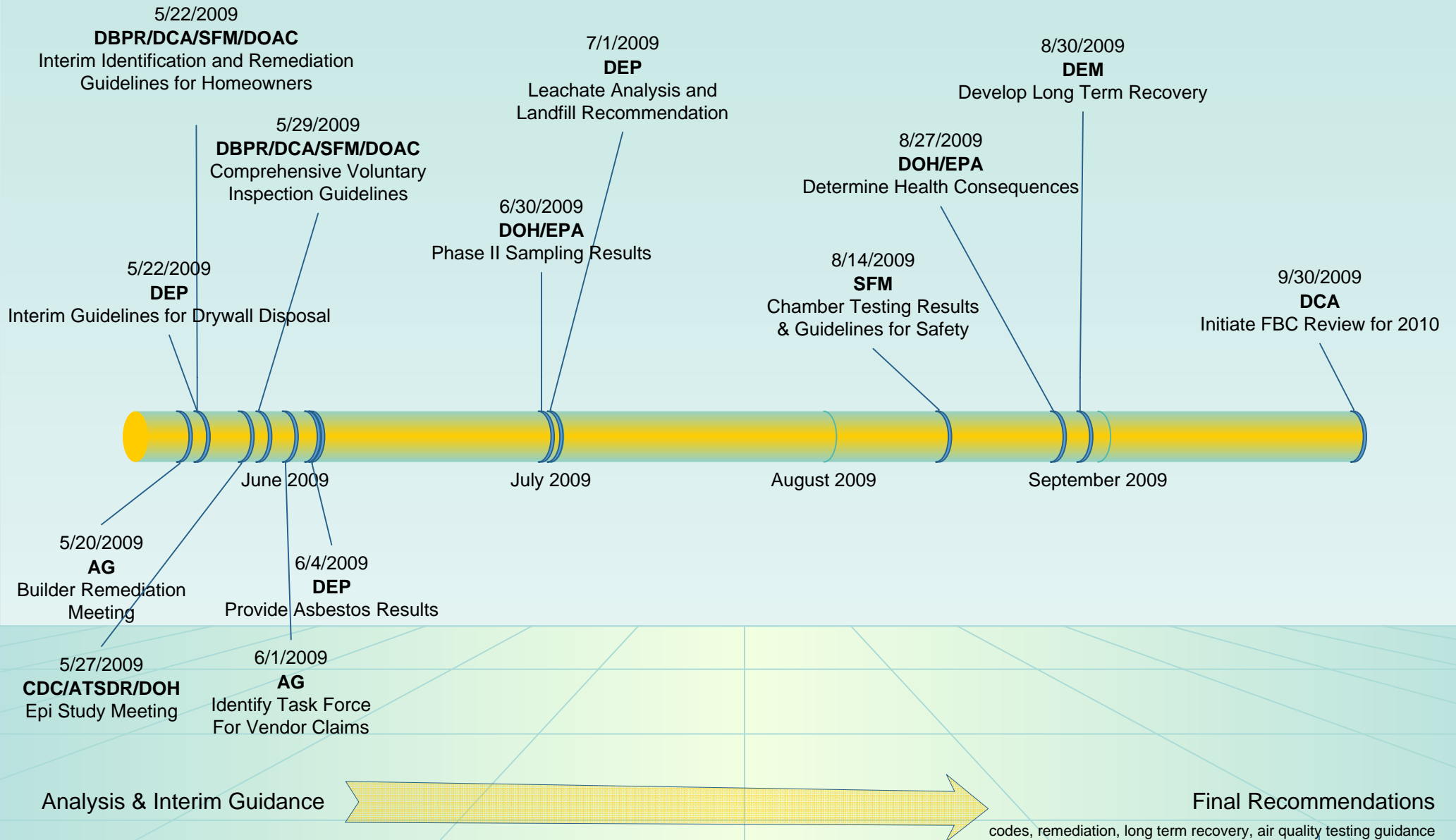
Resource(s)/information needed to carry-out this objective:

- (1) Conclusive determination the gypsum elements/substances caused the problem.
- (2) Collaboration and coordination between the impacted states, model building code organization (i.e. International Code Council "ICC"), Standard promulgation entities (i.e. ASTM International), and federal government (EPA) to better determine how best to revise the current codes and standards with regard to gypsum board materials. The State of Florida/Florida Department of Community Affairs/Florida Building Commission will be a partner in this effort.
- (3) Repository for research and information accumulated from all sources, i.e., states, federal, ICC, ASTM, etc.
- (3) Resource will be needed for Items 2 and 3.

Drywall Incident Timeline

Specific timeline showing proposed dates for incident objectives

Monday, May 18, 2009





CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

April 3, 2009

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

The Honorable Richard E. Besser, M.D.
Acting Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Administrator Jackson and Director Besser:

On behalf of the State of Florida, I am requesting assistance from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop and implement chemical testing strategies in homes that are experiencing severe copper corrosion associated with Chinese made drywall. The resources housed in the Environmental Response Teams (ERT) and Industrial Hygienists from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) capable of evaluating the health hazards possibly associated with corrosive gasses emitted from Chinese made drywall will enable a timely assessment of exposure and public health implications. Media reports on the amount of drywall imported from China during the recent housing boom suggest that many Florida homes may be affected.

In late January 2009, the Florida Department of Health (DOH) State Toxicologist and Indoor Air Programs Coordinator performed a preliminary assessment of 12 homes throughout south Florida, where bulk samples of drywall were collected for laboratory analysis. Laboratory analysis of these materials confirmed many of the findings reported by private consultants, including the presence of strontium sulfide and elemental sulfur in drywall from China. Tests also confirmed that drywall from problem homes generated hydrogen sulfide, carbonyl sulfide, and carbon disulfide when exposed to high relative humidity or heat. All of these compounds are capable of causing the type of corrosion identified in the complaint homes, and at sufficient concentrations could pose a health hazard.

These initial findings suggest that indoor air samples to determine occupant exposure to the corrosive gasses should be performed. Health related complaints from occupants living in these homes are sporadic and DOH is attempting to gather more health related information. The health hazards posed by exposure to chemicals in these homes are currently unclear, but we believe that a thorough and robust exposure assessment will enable DOH to determine if a health advisory is warranted.

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
The Honorable Richard E. Besser, M.D
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April 3, 2009

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has recently initiated an investigation focused on the suspected drywall and secondary damage it may be causing to electrical wiring, safety equipment, and natural gas connections. However, the resources and testing expertise necessary to evaluate occupant exposure in problem homes is not available from the CPSC.

Until mid March 2009, the problems associated with Chinese drywall had only been documented in Florida to any appreciable degree. Recent reports from Louisiana, Virginia, and North Carolina have demonstrated this is a multi-state issue directly connected with the importation of a foreign-made product.

Any assistance you may be able to provide in accessing Federal resources to assess human health exposures in these homes will benefit the Floridians adversely impacted by this extraordinary event.

Our point of contact for testing related to this project is our State Toxicologist:

David Krause, Ph.D., MSPH, CIH
Bureau of Environmental Public Health Medicine
Division of Environmental Health
Florida Department of Health
4052 Bald Cypress Way Bin A08
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1712
Tel: (850) 245-4115
Fax: (850) 922-8473
Cell: (850) 491-8397

We look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming days.

Sincerely,



Charlie Crist

cc: Surgeon General Ana M. Viamonte Ros
Florida Congressional Delegation



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

April 29, 2009

The Honorable Richard E. Besser, M.D.
Acting Director
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Mail Code: 1101A
Washington, DC 20460

Nancy Nord
Acting Chairman
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Director Besser, Administrator Jackson, and Chairman Nord:

On behalf of the State of Florida, thank you for your ongoing efforts to assist our state regarding Chinese drywall. I am again requesting assistance from our federal partner agencies in response to the emerging concerns regarding homes which are exhibiting severe corrosion of copper and other metals associated with Chinese manufactured drywall.

We request that parallel State-Federal efforts, rather than the more traditional tandem approach, be undertaken to evaluate the situation and provide guidance to citizens. We ask that the Federal agencies work with Florida to conduct parallel research in the following areas:

1. Materials testing to identify underlying sources of corrosive gas emissions and odors, and those which may have adverse impacts on human health.
2. Laboratory chamber testing to determine the emission rates of corrosive gases and the impact of environmental conditions and construction practices on the emission of gases from Chinese manufactured drywall and resulting copper corrosion.

3. In-home testing to assess occupant exposures to corrosive gases and possible secondary by-products due to the interaction of drywall emissions with other building materials, adhesives, coatings, paints, insulation, flame retardants, or household chemicals.
4. Remediation of homes and establishment of the standard of care needed to fully address and repair the secondary damage caused by corrosive emissions from Chinese manufactured drywall. A cooperative assessment of on-going remediation efforts being carried out by builders and homeowners may allow government agencies to identify the key factors necessary for a successful remediation and repair of impacted homes.

Parallel research efforts to develop guidance and eventually a "standard of care" for testing potentially affected homes and remediation of those determined to be affected has some understandable disadvantages. A multi-prong effort may be more expensive and may result in some redundant testing and doubling back on research paths. However, the time savings likely to be achieved, along with the synergy of such a multidisciplinary approach, can be anticipated to deliver important findings and useful guidance to homeowners and builders in a significantly shorter time frame. If research on the remediation of homes does not begin until a full understanding is achieved of the material chemistry, all of the contributing environmental conditions, and resulting occupant exposures, a scientifically-based evaluation of remediation protocols may be significantly delayed. If this issue was not adversely impacting Florida's citizens, a more traditional iterative study would certainly be advocated. However, I am urging a more productive and rapid research effort be implemented to achieve timely results that can deliver relevant information to affected homeowners and builders.

I am also seeking a response to several inquiries made by the Florida Department of Health (DOH) to your agencies. The pending requests include:

- Requests to the Consumer Products Safety Commission:
 1. Guidance for inspections needed to evaluate the safety of compromised (corroded) electrical systems in homes experiencing copper corrosion from Chinese manufactured drywall (i.e., for private electricians, electrical engineers, and others performing evaluations).
 2. Guidance for inspections needed to evaluate the safety of compromised (corroded) natural gas systems in homes experiencing copper corrosion from Chinese manufactured drywall (i.e., electricians, electrical engineers, and others performing evaluations).
 3. Findings from the initial evaluation of corroded electrical and natural gas systems by CPSC's staff on March 26-27, 2009.
- Requests to the Environmental Protection Agency:
 1. Confirmation of tentatively identified compounds in Chinese manufactured drywall materials reported in the EPA's April 1, 2009 analysis.

2. Broad technical assistance from the Environmental Response Team to develop the scope of a study, including testing and analysis protocols, for evaluating occupant exposures to corrosive gases and secondary by-products in homes with copper corrosion associated with Chinese manufactured drywall. Of greatest need are technical and field personnel to conduct testing of select homes experiencing copper corrosion from Chinese manufactured drywall, including equipment and analysis needed to perform testing.
- Request to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
 1. Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry: Technical assistance to prepare educational materials for physicians who may be evaluating patients living in homes with Chinese manufactured drywall.
 2. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health: A Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) to assess occupational hazards related to remediation and abatement of homes with Chinese manufactured drywall.

In order to ensure the most effective communication, please provide the name, title and contact information for your Agency Point of Contact (POC) to serve as your Agency's representative for Florida's Operation Drywall Incident Management Team. Please send this information to Nancy Leiva, Unified Command, Situation Status Unit Leader, at Nancy_Leiva@doh.state.fl.us or 850-245-4250.

I appreciate the assistance as requested in an expedited manner. I look forward to hearing from you and working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Charlie Crist

CC/pk



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

April 29, 2009

The Honorable Dave Aronberg
405 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Aronberg,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the problems associated with Chinese manufactured drywall in Florida homes. Please be assured that I recognize the impact of this issue on Florida homeowners and have taken several steps toward addressing the situation.

I have tasked the Florida Department of Health (DOH) with coordinating the statewide response on this issue. DOH is working closely with the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, the Florida Department of Community Affairs, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Attorney General's Office, the Florida Department of Agriculture, and the Florida Division of Financial Services and has established a Chinese Drywall Unified Incident Command Team composed of representatives from these departments and offices.

Importantly, DOH is engaging in additional testing of homes containing Chinese-manufactured drywall to identify potential health hazards. DOH has also prominently placed on its web site information about Chinese-manufactured drywall (<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/community/indoor-air/drywall.html>). Among other things, on this site citizens can learn ways to determine whether their home may contain Chinese-manufactured drywall, the latest results of drywall testing, answers to frequently-asked questions, and how to file a consumer complaint if fraud in testing or remediation is suspected. In addition, in a few days the site will allow citizens to sign up to receive e-mail notifications of the latest news on this issue.

I have also requested targeted Federal assistance from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Consumer Products Safety Commission. Specialized resources within these entities would greatly assist Florida in assessing any potential health hazards and establishing best practices for remediation of affected homes. Please find enclosed copies of letters I sent to our federal partners on April 3, 2009 and earlier today asking for assistance.

We will continue to work with all diligence on this important issue and will keep you apprised of any new developments.

Sincerely,

Charlie Crist