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to: Spill file #
from: Bob Haslam
subject: Trip report
date: April 25, 2000

On 4/25/00 I investigated a complaint of waste oil dumping in Huntington. A former Huntington select board member, Joe King, alleged that past users of a garage on the Huntington Post Office property dumped waste oil into a pit in the garage floor. The garage is located on Main street immediately east of the current post office. The garage is destined for removal in the near future as part of developing a new Post Office.

I met the current property owner Duncan Keir, who showed me the garage. A pit was present in the center of the concrete slab of the garage. The pit dimension were approximately 3' x 8' by 4' deep. The pit had concrete walls, but appeared open to the ground at the bottom of the pit.

The soils at the bottom of the pit appeared stained with petroleum, but a PID lowered into the pit showed no detection. I entered the pit and attempted to determine the horizontal extent of staining. Using a shovel, I was only able to dig to a depth of about 6". Soils were tightly compacted and debris such as wood, rocks, metal pieces precluded digging deeper. I collected three samples of the stained soil for PID screening. Although a slight petroleum odor was noted, there was no PID detection.

Because hand digging was ineffective in defining the extent of contamination, a backhoe was then used. The operator set up over the pit, scraped aside the overlying debris, and dug down to a depth of approximately 16 inches below the bottom of the pit. A soil profile was revealed showing that the visibly stained soils were restricted to a depth of about 3 to 4 inches. Below this was unstained, coarse grained sand. A sample was collected from this depth for PID screening. The results were negative, and no odor was detected.

I took photos documenting my observations.

Based on these observations and the data collected, the site appears to contain only insignificant amounts of petroleum contamination. No further actions are warranted. The complaint was closed on 4/25/00.