

From: Ashley Gjovik ashleygjovik@icloud.com
Subject: Worked at TRW Microwave Superfund
Date: April 30, 2021 at 5:02 PM
To: Dr. [REDACTED] [@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:[REDACTED]@cdph.ca.gov)



Hi Dr. [REDACTED]

Totally optional to read or help — only if you have time or interest. More on TRW Microwave...

This actually blew up a bit this month. I started asking questions to our Env Health & Safety team and was very dissatisfied with their answers. The testing they did in 2015 appears to be 10hr (not 24-48hr) and they didn't even fully turn the HVAC off. And Toluene and Ethylbenzene did come back high, but was written off because not "contaminants of concern." Then they didn't do any testing again. And before 2015, the building was vacant for a very long time. They moved my team in 2015-2016-ish.

After the first round of conversations, I started saying openly that I think my 2019 fainting spell at the office seems more likely than not to be because of chemicals in the building — and our HR biz partner pushed me to file a workers comp claim about it. I thought the workers comp people would laugh me out the door, but they're intrigued with what's happening at this office (and Apple's other Superfund offices) — and said they'd set it as Continuous Trauma since I moved in there in 2017, at least. They investigating and talking to Apple.

The fun never ends... clearly the universe doesn't like me undecided about pursuing a career in public health... otherwise I don't know why I can't just close the chapter on all this. Ok ok, I'm listening! ;)

I talked to Dr. Harrison yesterday (a live video chat — he's so nice!) He actually said he was super impressed that I essentially created my own personal medical monitoring program for myself last year and he was going to hire me as a research assistant. I was like ACCEPTED! But then he "fired" me because of a typo. Anyhow... he thought the whole thing with TRW would be too speculative because Apple wasn't actually testing the indoor air while I worked there, so there's no way to know whether it was or was not the chemicals. (P.S. I said hi from you and Tracy and he smiled really big, "You know them! Amazing!") He is looking over my apartments indoor air results and looking to see if anything was out of bounds with DTSC's cancer risk screening levels (he said he disliked that they usually use OSHA in residential settings).

I'm reaching out to the EPA about TRW. I'm talking with Margo PerezSullivan for now. The technical lead transferred me over to community relations... probably doesn't know who he's dealing with yet. :)

Let me know if there's any questions you think I should be asking. Attaching what I sent her so far.



Re/ Questions
about...rowave

—
Ashley M. Gjovik

Juris Doctor Candidate & Public International Law Certificate Candidate, Santa Clara University, Class of 2022
I'm not a lawyer and nothing I say should be considered legal advice.

On Apr 4, 2021, at 10:32 PM, [REDACTED] [@CDPH](mailto:[REDACTED]@CDPH) <[\[REDACTED\]@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:[REDACTED]@cdph.ca.gov)> wrote:

Hi Ashley,

I don't want to ignore you because you always ask really relevant and important questions, so please know I will give this some thought when I return from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Anyway, I will look over what you've sent and ponder the significance. I agree with [REDACTED] on first glance that your "exposure" in your apartment seemed to set something off that I feel is independent from any prior exposures. So, I guess I'm not thinking that you had some longer-term exposure that "primed" your reaction in your apartment. But, honestly, there is so little known about some of this that I almost hate to speculate.

Take care for now,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [@CDPH](mailto:[REDACTED]@CDPH) <[\[REDACTED\]@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:[REDACTED]@cdph.ca.gov)>
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 11:30 AM
To: Ashley Gjovik <ashleygjovik@icloud.com>
Cc: [REDACTED] [@CDPH](mailto:[REDACTED]@CDPH) <[\[REDACTED\]@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:[REDACTED]@cdph.ca.gov)>
Subject: RE: <https://sfbayview.com/2021/03/i-thought-i-was-dying-my-apartment-was-built-on-toxic-waste/>

As you well know, there are still many questions without answers in the toxicology world. You have a real

knack for asking those types of questions 😊.

Your last question is a fun one to ponder . . .

From: Ashley Gjovik <ashleygjovik@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 10:57 AM
To: [REDACTED]@CDPH <[REDACTED]@cdph.ca.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]@CDPH <[REDACTED]@cdph.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: <https://sfbayview.com/2021/03/i-thought-i-was-dying-my-apartment-was-built-on-toxic-waste/>

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Hi [REDACTED]!! Sorry, I guess I'm not sure what exactly I'm asking. I guess trying to figure out if my VOC exposure was "long term" instead of "short term" and what that might mean, but maybe doesn't mean much if it was different chemicals — or levels. I did have one unexplained near fainting spell in my office in the fall of 2019 — but not sure if it's related.

Sorry for my endless questions. I'll bug Dr. Nadeau and see if she has any thoughts. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Maybe there's no real answer. It just worries me how gnarly that site seems to be — and part of me hopes my reaction was stronger than others might be — I hate the idea of the new tenant suffering like I did.

I guess what I'm really asking is when are we all moving to Hawai'i...

—
Ashley M. Gjovik

On Apr 1, 2021, at 10:47 AM, [REDACTED]@CDPH <[REDACTED]@cdph.ca.gov> wrote:

Hi Ashley,

It sounds like you are asking whether you could have developed some form chemical sensitivity from workplace exposures in 2013? I have no expertise in this area. My initial (un-informed) thought is that if there's a chemical sensitivity issue, you would have experienced other episodes prior to moving into your Santa Clara apartment, since we are exposed to many substances daily.

From: Ashley Gjovik <ashleygjovik@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 11:02 AM
To: [REDACTED]@cdph.ca.gov>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@cdph.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: <https://sfbayview.com/2021/03/i-thought-i-was-dying-my-apartment-was-built-on-toxic-waste/>

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Links/attachments may not be safe. To report suspicious emails, click "Report Phish" button.

Technical question for both of you....

So, my employer doesn't allow us to talk about the locations of our office buildings — but something has been eating at me. I've worked on an EPA Superfund site since January of 2017. I knew that vaguely it was a "bad one" but didn't start really looking into it until a couple weeks ago.

If I get in trouble for asking you about this... I'm going to argue I'm seeking the advice of the state's best medical and scientific experts related to chemical exposure at remediation sites — about concerns I have about my personal health and safety.... 'Cause I am.

I work on the TRW Microwave site, part of the "Tripe Site," in Sunnyvale. It was overseen by the Water Boards until the Superfund program took it over in 2014 after major vapor intrusion issues in the area, as well as on the site my office is on.

I found reports of historical vapor intrusion in my building, even my specific working area, in 2003, 2004, & 2013. I can't find any published indoor results after that. I saw a letter in 2015 saying there was testing in 2015 and it was "fine now," but no details of what testing they did or what the results were. Previously, they found levels of TCE, VC, & Chloroform in my office above EPA and/or WB thresholds for an industrial workplace. Even in 2013, about 10 feet from my desk, they found 7.3ug/m3 of TCE & 0.52 of VC in the indoor air — and after opening an slub-slat vent right next to it, found 1,900 ug/m3 of TCE and <18 VC. All of this while the building was currently unoccupied.

Also, the EPA site Performance Measure for "Human Exposure Under Control" current says "No." And GeoTracker shows a land use covenant prohibiting just about everything.

Trust me, I'm having some strong discussions with the folks at work in charge of this... but I'm wondering now that this might mean for what happened to me last year. Especially if I ended up having a stronger reaction to the SCSA site than others.

If I was exposed to even lower levels of TCE, VC, and/or Chloroform in the air (like not above max for industrial sites, but maybe still elevated) for three years — before I got fumigated with whatever was going in my SCSA apartment — do you think that could have caused me to have a great response than some of my neighbors? Or any other concerns or things I should be thinking about?

Sites:

- EPA: <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0901181>
- Waterboards: https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report?global_id=SL721251223
- Triple Site coverage by KQED: <https://www.kqed.org/futureofyou/388730/silicon-valleys-toxic-past-haunts-sunnyvale-neighborhood>
- Triple Site coverage by The Atlantic: <https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2013/07/not-even-silicon-valley-escapes-history/277824/>

Thanks!

FYI, some of the reports I found — all of these are public on EPA or Water Boards sites:

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Ashley M. Gjøvik

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