December 2020

In our ongoing effort to inform tenants about the Goodfellow Environmental Project, the following provides recent updates on the Goodfellow Federal Center.

Recent sampling results

Recent drinking water sampling results

In September 2020, water samples were collected at representative fixtures throughout the Goodfellow Federal Center as part of GSA's continual check for water quality. A total of 134 samples, including duplicate samples, were collected from within 14 buildings at the complex. All but 9 samples resulted in levels less than the action levels, 15 parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L) for lead and 1.3 parts per million or 1,300 µg/L for copper:

1. A sink in Building 103D, 1st Floor, Room 118 with a lead concentration of 910 µg/L.
2. A drinking fountain in Building 103, 2nd Floor by Column H6 with a copper concentration of 2,600 µg/L.
3. A drinking fountain in Building 105, 1st Floor, South Lobby with a lead concentration of 15 µg/L.
4. A sink in Building 105, 2nd Floor, Room 337, north sink, with a lead concentration of 21 µg/L.
5. A sink in Building 105, 2nd Floor, Room 324, corner sink, with a lead concentration of 29 µg/L.
6. A sink in Building 105, 2nd Floor, Room 329, west sink, with a lead concentration of 26 µg/L.
7. A sink in Building 105, 2nd Floor, Room 356, corner sink, with a lead concentration of 29 µg/L.
8. A sink in Building 105, 2nd Floor, Room 333, corner sink, with a lead concentration of 23 µg/L.
9. A sink in Building 105, 2nd Floor, Room 318, north sink, with a lead concentration of 15 µg/L.

The 9 fixtures were all removed from service before determining final disposition. The sink in Building 103D and the drinking fountain in Building 103, referenced above, were permanently removed. The drinking fountain in the 1st Floor South Lobby of Building 105 is scheduled for replacement. After performing cleaning and maintenance of the 6 sinks in Building 105, the fixtures were resampled. The sink in Room 318 was the only sink to have results from resampling that were below 15 µg/L (equal to 15 parts per billion). The other 5 sinks will remain out of service and are scheduled for replacement. Follow-up sampling of the drinking water will be performed to ensure the drinking water quality before the replaced fixtures are released for use. During long periods of low or no water use, a breakdown of the building's plumbing may occur leading to potentially high levels of lead or other metals in the building's drinking water. GSA has implemented a water management program that includes a routine weekly flushing of the buildings' water systems to maintain water quality.

The full sampling reports are available at gsa.gov/goodfellowreadingroom.

Follow-up to campus-wide wipe sampling

As a follow-up to the June sampling event throughout the complex, GSA resampled spaces that had elevated lead results in areas that are accessible to tenants and controlled by GSA. These areas were first re-cleaned by the janitorial contractor and then added to their normal routine. Wipe samples were then collected in 8 spaces to monitor the effectiveness of the cleaning. Although 5 out of the 8 resulted in lower concentrations of lead than the initial samples, only 2 out of the 8 samples had levels that were under the HUD / EPA lead guideline of 10 micrograms per square foot, and 1 sample was at the action level.

The majority of the spaces resampled are walked-on surfaces where there is daily foot traffic, as well as movement of equipment. Levels of contaminants may vary from day to day based on activities. Samples from the freight elevator thresholds showed the highest concentration of lead. There were 4 separate freight elevator thresholds sampled. These are porous surfaces that are original to the buildings. As a pilot deep cleaning test, the freight elevator threshold in Building 104, Second Floor at Column B45 was cleaned using a solution of tri-sodium phosphate and mechanical means. The subsequent wipe sample demonstrated that the level of lead was reduced by 77%, but still the resulting level was above the HUD / EPA lead guideline. The next step in the pilot deep cleaning program is to seal this threshold with a coating that is abrasion-resistant. If the wipe samples of the coated surface meet the action level, then the other freight elevator thresholds will be sealed using the same coating.

The full sampling reports are available at gsa.gov/goodfellowreadingroom.

GSA continues to monitor concentrations of contaminants throughout the complex. The next round of campus-wide air and wipe sampling is scheduled in December 2020.

GSA Region 6 Environmental Team
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