

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

D.E.Q.E.  
Inspection  
Trip Summary Sheet

Facility Name John J. Riley, Co.

Inspection Date 4/6/83

Location 228 Salem St.

Inspectors

Woburn, MA.

R. Cleary

Contact People Jack Riley - owner.

H. Waldorf

Dick Jones - chemist

Phone Number 933-5900

In Compliance?

D.E.Q.E. License No. None

       yes        No

E.P.A. I.D. No. MAD001035872

I. Facility Type and Process Description Gen., Tr., TSD

This facility processes cattle hides into finished leather, on a contract basis. Riley's  
customers are primarily manufacturers of shoes, belts and personal goods. This plant  
operates on a staggered shifts 5 AM to 9 PM. Since tannery wastes were delisted by the  
EPA in 1981 and are no longer considered hazardous wastes, this company may apply to the  
Department to be taken off the hazardous waste generator list. A tour of the plant revealed  
several issues of concern with regard to the Woburn project. Unit processes observed  
during this inspection, along with raw materials used, are summarized as follows:



<u>Unit Process</u>	<u>Raw Materials and Storage Location</u>	<u>Wastes Discharged</u>
E. Pasting, washing and drying	Alkaline, cellulose paste solution - drums inside	Wastewater to settling basin.
F. Stretching	"Mardol" oil - inside drums "Isoparl" aliphilic hydrocarbon - (parrifin) drums inside.	No wastewater.
G. Buffing	Mechanical process.	Chrome leather dust to cyclone collector and water spray. Buffing sludge to drying bed.
H. Finishing Operations		
1. Seasoning - 2. Laquering, - coating and filming	Various waterbased mixtures Rotary spray	Water curtain spray waste water to settling basin. Paper filter to trash.

Process uses various compounds, depending on product type, all stored inside in 55 gallon drums, most are blended dressings:

Types of Coating

Nitrocellulose and polyurethane laquers. Water dispersable resins, acrylonitrile pigment: carboxybutadieneacrylonitrile, carboxybutadiene acrylonitrile-styrene, carboxybutadiene acrylo nitrile-acrylic

Types of Solvents

diisobutylketone  
"methylcellusolve" or "T-235"  
(ethylene glycol monoethyl ether)  
"butylcellusolve"  
(ethylene glycol monobutyl ether)  
butylacetate  
tributylphosphate  
diisobutyl acetone

### III. Inspection Discussion

#### A. Wastewater

1. Wastewater from most unit processes flows to a common settling basin where some settling and solids removal occurs. The largest volume of the 350,000 GPD flow is from the beamhouse, tanning, and color mill operation.
2. The MDC, under current litigation, will require further treatment. Mr. Jones and Mr. Riley indicated they had hired an engineer to cost-out wastewater treatment upgrading including pH control, chromium removal, oil and grease removal and sulfides reduction.

*officer  
Riley?*

#### B. Sludge Management

1. Sludges, which are the skimmings and bottom solids from the waste water catch basin are being stockpiled onsite, on an embankment above the railroad track and the company's well house. This stockpile is not covered in any way. Some erosion of the stockpiled sludge is occurring down to the railroad drainage ditch. This drainage flows south to the wetlands upstream of Whittenmore Pond. This condition appears to be a violation of the Mass. Clean Waters Act (Chap. 21, Section 43) and the Solid Waste Disposal Act (Chap. III, Section 150 A).
2. Buffing dust sludges (see section E.2) are stockpiled at the northwest corner of the drying building. There was no evidence that this was causing water or air pollution, but considering the particle sizes these sludges could cause an air pollution problem if allowed to dry out. This does appear to be a violation of the Solid Waste Disposal Act.
3. Waste water treatment sludges and buffing dust sludges from tanneries were taken off the list of hazardous wastes by EPA. Therefore, these are not categorically hazardous wastes, but they must still be tested for the characteristics of hazardous waste on a case by case basis. The only hazardous characteristics that these waste streams are likely to exhibit, according to EPA, are EP Toxicity (Cr<sup>+6</sup>, Cd) and reactivity (evolution of H<sub>2</sub>S gas).

Mr. Riley showed us laboratory data for EP Toxicity that indicate that the wastes are non-hazardous, but he would not provide copies of any data because of the current litigation with Woburn parents of leukemia victims.

4. Past sludge disposal practices have consisted of burial of dry and semiliquid sludges on the northern portion of the property. Two old sludge lagoons and burial areas, approximately 1/4 acre in size were viewed during the inspection. One is approximately 1/2 full of water, of unknown depth. The other is a depression which is dry and vegetated, other than two "puddles" of whitish green liquid. Mr. Jones stated these old lagoons had been tested for organics two years ago and none were detected.

5. Mr. Riley declined to provide copies of the sludge and well test results due to a pending lawsuit.
6. Department Policy on Sludge: The Department is authorized by the Massachusetts Clean Waters Act by MGL Chapter 21 Section 26-53 to regulate or prohibit discharge of pollutant to ground or surface waters without a valid permit. Mass. G.L. Chapter 83 section 7 authorizes the Department to order a sewage treatment plant to improve its works or operation in order to prevent or abate water pollution. In so far as the Riley Tannery is permitted to discharge to the MDC sewer system, and is operating their catch basin "treatment works" to remove solids, they should fall within the purview of the above section.
7. It appears, from information provided by the company, that sludge being stockpiled and disposed of on-site is a non-hazardous industrial sludge. However, this facility should be required by the Department to provide documentation that the sludge generated exhibits none of the characteristics of a hazardous waste, as defined in 310 CMR 30.120. In particular: the company should show the department evidence that the sludge will not generate toxic gases, as described in 310 CMR 30.124(e); and that the sludge does not contain the following EP Toxic materials in excess of the concentrations described in 310 CMR 30.125:

Cadmium,  
Chromium in the hexavalent form  $\text{Cr}^{+6}$  and  
Lead.

In view of the previous contamination of nearby wells with halogenated solvents, it is suggested that they be required to do a purgeable organics on their sludge.

8. It is recommended that Riley's be ordered by the Department to take the following actions:
  - a. Submit plans for the control and collection of leachate from sludge stockpiling areas.
  - b. Submit plans for the design and operation of sludge landfilling on-site, conforming to RCRA standards of 40 CFR 257. Alternatively, Riley's could either submit documentation of the acceptance of their sludge for off-site disposal or submit plans to the Department for land application of their sludge on site.
9. It is felt that the above recommendations conform closely to the most recent policy memorandum on the subject (Policy #17, 3/31/83) from the Division of Hazardous Waste.

C. Raw Materials:

- 1) The summary matrix of unit processes (section I) lists raw materials used by the Riley Tannery and their place of storage. These materials were either observed during this inspection or were stated verbally by Mr. Jones. Mr. Riley stated that he feels Riley has never used any "toxic" materials, except, "20 years ago, under a government contract, for leather to go to Vietnam."
- 2) The raw materials or derivatives discussed below are listed in 310 CMR 30.133 as "Hazardous Wastes which are discarded commercial chemical products or OFF-specification batches of commercial chemical products or spill residues of either". It should be noted that these substances are considered hazardous only if discarded in their pure (or off-specification) commercial form. As such, these raw materials are not considered waste as they are currently being used by this facility. They are listed for background information only:

<u>Raw Material</u>	<u>Waste listed in 310 CMR 30.133</u>
Phenolic Detergents	Phenol U188 plus 11 other phenolic compounds
Aniline	Aniline U012
Formic Acid	Formic Acid U123
Acrylonitrile Pigments	Acrylonitrile U009

D. Process Water is supplied through 2 wells

- 1) Well #1, closest to the plant and west of the B&M tracks, is labeled well #439 in the E&E Final report. It has exhibited low levels of chlorinated solvents compared with other contaminated wells. Mr. Jones indicated that when they have tested this well levels of the halogenated solvents have been at either low levels or non-detectable.
- 2) Their well #2, located east of the B&M tracks, is labeled well #6 in the E&E Final Report. Levels of halogenated solvents in this well were high, with trichloroethylene at 1372 ppb in 1981.
- 3) Mr. Jones stated that the process water supply, from the above 2 wells, was cross-connected with the city water supply up until 1980.

E. Air emissions:

- 1) A recent air inspection report on this plant is included in the file. It contains more detailed information on VOC use. A small sample paint spray booth at the plant is stack vented. Total VOC emission for all processes (i.e. evaporation), based on use in the air inspection report, are 82.57 tons/yr.
- 2) The buffing process vents leather dust to a cyclone collector with water sprays (see section B.3. concerning this sludge).

F. Property of Beatrice Foods East of B&M Tracks

- 1) The property is still owned by Beatrice Foods, however, Mr. Riley stated that John J. Riley Inc. still retain water rights to well #2 (E&E#6). It should be noted, for purposes of any future enforcement in this area, that Beatrice Foods sold the plant itself back to John J. Riley Co. in January 1983.
- 2) This property was the location of disposal of hazardous waste drums and "oily residues". Beatrice Foods was ordered to remove these wastes in October of 1980.
- 3) Based on an inspection of the property it appears that the area east of the MDC/Woburn sewer lines and closest to Whitney barrel has been recently disturbed by heavy equipment. Mr. Riley stated he had had some of the scrap metal and old drums removed. He also stated that the newly constructed fences near the well and at the Whitney property boundary were intended to prevent future access to this area from Salem St.
- 4) Scrap metal and rusting old drums and refuse are scattered throughout the property. A large pile of these (15 to 20) drums is located opposite the train "depot" at the Leachmere Warehouse. At the base of the sewer manhole in this area a small spot of oily, tarry residue was noted. No other distinctive oily residues or recently dumped refuse were observed on the site. No obvious vegetation stress was noted.
- 5) Owing to the age of these wastes, it will be difficult to determine the type, if any, of hazardous residues in and under the old drums. For this reason, it is suggested Beatrice Foods, be required to provide sample analysis from soils in this area, before any cleanup, to determine if they contain either EP Toxic wastes or any of the several halogenated solvents which have contaminated nearby wells. Based on the sample results, the Department can then decide on the specific requirements for the physical removal of these wastes by Beatrice Foods.
- 6) According to Mr. Riley, Beatrice Foods plans to donate this site to either the City of Woburn or a non-profit organization called "Wildlands" in the near future. A quick response to the situation on this site is advisable.

II. Summary of Violations or Deficiencies With References to Hazardous Waste Laws and Regulations.

A. No specific violations with reference to hazardous waste regulations at the John J. Riley Company were noted.

B. Beatrice Foods appears to be in violation of MGL c. 21C s. 5 which prohibits disposal of hazardous waste without a license. Under s. 9 of this chapter the Department may require the production or analysis of samples.

C. With reference to non-hazardous sludges, John J. Riley Co appears to be in violation of M.G.L. c. 24 section 43 which prohibits the discharge of pollutants to waters of the Commonwealth without a valid permit. Under M.G.L. c. 83 s. 7 the Department may order a sewage treatment plant to improve its operation to abate water pollution. The company also appears to be in violation of Chap. 111 Section 150 A. of the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

III. Inspection Discussion

See sheets previous.

IV. Recommendations to Actions --See next page.

V. Hazardous Waste Profile

K054

K055

K056 Tannery Wastes - delisted in 1981

K057

#### IV. Recommendations to Actions

- A. John J. Riley Co. would like to be removed from the list of hazardous waste generators. This should be allowed if the company provides analytical data showing that its sludge does not exhibit any characteristics of hazardous waste. The pertinent characteristics are EP Toxicity (Cr<sup>+6</sup>, Cd, especially) and reactivity (evolution of H<sub>2</sub>S gas.)
- B. Beatrice Foods should be issued an order to investigate and clean up the parcel of land they own east of the Boston and Maine Railroad tracks.  
EPA has recently issued an order to this effect under Section 3013 of RCRA.
- C. John J. Riley Co. should be required to properly dispose of the sludge from its settling lagoon and its buffering dust collector. If, as seems likely, the sludge proves non-hazardous, the company has several options. They can send the sludge off site to an approved solid waste disposal facility. They can create an approved solid waste disposal facility on site. (The company may not need to get a site assignment because they have been disposing of this sludge on site for many years.) The third option is somewhat more complicated. DEQE/DHW Policy #17 (3/31/83), "Design and Operation of Sludge Landfills," classifies non-hazardous waste water treatment plant sludge as "sewage." making it subject to regulations under G.L. Chap. 21, Sections 26-53, which prohibits discharging of pollutants to ground or surface waters without a valid permit and under G.L. Chap 83, Section 7 which allows DEQE/DWPC to order sewage treatment plants to improve their works or operation to prevent or abate water pollution. Insofar as the Riley Tannery is permitted to discharge to the MDC sewer system and is operating their settling basin to remove solids, they should fall within the purview of this policy.

Whatever course the company chooses they should be required to document that leachate from the dewatering of their sludges is collected and controlled, and should they choose to operate a sludge landfill, it must conform to RCRA standards of 40 CFR 257.

- D. In response to the company's request for information, they should be informed that the Department cannot provide confidentiality of data provided the Department to prove that a waste is non-hazardous. They should also be informed that 310 CMR 30.302 requires that the generator of a waste determine whether it is hazardous and that 310 CMR 30.061 requires generators of hazardous waste to notify the Department. In sum, the Department can and does require that the data be submitted and cannot keep that data confidential.

VI. Information Requests

A. Inspector from Industry

- 1) Previously issued (ID# MAD001035872. Mr. Jones requested this number so he could apply to have them removed from the generator's list.
- 2) If they submit test results on sludge & well now, will the Dept. protect their confidentiality with regard to a pending lawsuit?

B. Industry from Inspector