



Allen, Pam, NMENV

From: Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV
Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2014 8:30 AM
To: Allen, Pam, NMENV
Subject: FW: WIPP Information - For Call Today
Attachments: LANL Daily Report MP 5 8 14.docx; 41-b-856 WHT dp Daily Averages_5-7-14.pdf; 41-b-857 WHT dp Daily Averages_5-7-14.pdf; 1300 Meeting Action Items 050714.xlsx; Kitty Litter.SWheat.pdf

May

From: Kliphuis, Trais, NMENV
Sent: Thursday, May 08, 2014 2:38 PM
To: Flynn, Ryan, NMENV; Kendall, Jeff, NMENV
Cc: Winchester, Jim, NMENV; Tongate, Butch, NMENV; Schwender, Erika, NMENV; Blaine, Tom, NMENV; Skibitski, Thomas, NMENV; Kieling, John, NMENV; Holmes, Steve, NMENV; Lucaskamat, Susan, NMENV; Turner, Jill, NMENV; Nelson, Morgan, NMENV; Ines Triay (triayin@fiu.edu); Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV; Smith, Coleman, NMENV
Subject: FW: WIPP Information - For Call Today

NMED Notes in blue – Let me know if you have questions.

From: Oba Vincent [<mailto:oba.vincent@cbfo.doe.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, May 08, 2014 10:46 AM
To: Kliphuis, Trais, NMENV; 'peake.tom@epa.gov'; 'Edwards, Jonathan'; 'Walsh, Jonathan'; 'Perrin, Alan'; 'Kehrman, Bob - RES'; 'Chavez, Rick - RES'; 'Stone.Nick@epa.gov'; Smith, Coleman, NMENV; 'brozowski.george@epa.gov'; 'Fraass, Ron'; 'Hardy, Russell'; 'Veal.Lee@epamail.epa.gov'; 'Economy, - CTAC'; Susan McCauslin - WIPPNet; 'Pace, Berry'; Anthony Stone - WIPPNet; J.R. Stroble - WIPPNet
Subject: WIPP Information - For Call Today

Attached are the filter performance data, action item list, kitty litter data and Station A/B data.

Below is a summary of activities: (Please note, activities and dates are subject to change. Please verify the most current dates of any information provided).

- ICLN has info on kitty litter, AK package, flam gas data on MINO2.
- Underground remains in Filtration Mode utilizing Fan 860B. The 860B is operating within the acceptable vibration ranges. The vendor was on site on 5/5 to assist engineering with evaluation of the 860A and 860C fan conditions. Testing of 860A will occur on 5/8 - tonight after work.
- Cleaning of the soot from the fire event in the Waste Handling Tower is continuing; Cleaning of the mezzanine is on-going. The WS is anticipated to be back in service in June.
- Weekly MSHA inspections of the AIS & SS was initiated on 5/7 and will be completed on 5/8 (this morning). Entry today – next bullet
- “New Activity 6” Reestablishment of Radiation Protection Program in U/G: A series of entries will be made into the U/G to modify postings, maintain CAMs and establish “clean zones”. A CAM is operating at the base of the SS which can be monitored from the surface. The area between the SS and AIS down to S-90 will be posted as a RBA after a detailed survey is completed in the area and CAMs are set-up for remote monitoring. This activity is planned on 5/8 immediately after the Weekly Shaft Inspections are complete.



- “NEW Activity 7”: Continued Survey of Panel 7 Waste: Obtain additional video and pictures to acquire an aerial view of the waste containers in the area of interest, conduct thermal imaging and collect wipes from the area to help determine the cause of the event. The entry was delayed to address employee concerns and to practice with a more efficient camera system. The entry is now projected for 5/10 (Saturday) assuming the safety concerns can be addressed. No plans to take samples (only wipes)
- 39 shipments have been made to WCS. Waste shipping is on hold due to the concerns associated with waste potentially containing nitrate salts. (No change)
- Based on detailed evaluations of the video taken during the U/G entry on 4/30, potential concerns with waste stream LA-MIN02-V.001 have been raised. There are 26 of these containers at LANL (3706 Project), 116 of them at WCS (all overpacked in SWBs) and 349 of them in WIPP (209 in Panel 6, Room 1; 85 in Panel 6, Room 2; 55 in Panel 7, room 7. Filter samples were received at SRNL for analysis on 5/8.
- Town hall meeting will be held on 5/8. Secretary Flynn will attend.
- Fan change-over is still in evaluation. Not scheduled yet.
- LANL – not on the line – was supposed to be on the line.
- Neutron emitter action item – NMED still has issues. Sources in that have high neutron emission rate and other compounds that may be in nearby drum that may have, may be creating a heat source....neutron emission is greatly enhanced when next to a getter... DOE: JR will evaluate.
- What are they looking for HSG samples? Pete: Hoping to find any by-products of a reaction.
- NO MSDS's for kitty litters. No chemical breakdown on that. NMED: Are chemists looking at that? Pete M: Doing bench tests but preliminary results have not been peer reviewed and cannot be made public.
- **NMED QUESTIONS:**
 - 1) Who is responsible for the theory regarding the nitrate salts? JR: Several teams have been working on this. LANL-Carlsbad first told JR about this several weeks ago. We asked for identification of the teams. JR indicated that LA-MIN-02.001 is only one of many waste streams being considered. He did not/would not say why this particular stream is the most suspect.
 - 2) What evidence supports this theory? LANL previously used an inorganic absorbent (clay) when the switch was made to absorbent that contained wheat chaff the nitric acid reacted with the organic material creating nitrocellulose mixture in the barrels. Do they know what "green" kitty litter was used? The info provided is attached to this email. It is not very informative, looks like a screen shot from Amazon. Have they been able to re-create this event? They can't say (see notes above).
 - 3) Assuming their theory is correct, how do they explain the fact that the drums were jostled around while being loaded on the truck, unloaded off the truck, and placed in the WIPP. Nothing happens when they were being moved. Then, after the containers are put in place and stabilized, a chemical reaction occurs? This does not make sense to me. They will have the chemists explain this in tomorrow's call. [Heat is a factor. This is why they are monitoring the temperature of the wastes at WCS and LANL).
 - 4) What is the point of taking more pictures and samples? They need to access the drum where the event occurred. I do not see how we are learning anything about the source of this release under the approach they are currently taking. WHEN are they going to move drums out of the way and access the drums where the release occurred? Ask for a specific date. They cannot answer that at this time. We asked for a list of events with a timeline that lays out what has to happen before this can occur (for examination and sampling).
 - 6) What are LANL, WCS and WIPP are doing to monitor/ secure the all the nitrate salt containers? At WCS the waste is overpacked in SWB but JR Stroble stated “This may not be enough.” They moved non-NIM02 away and

unstacked MINO2, keeping inside and air cooled, periodically measuring temperature (thermography). JR has not heard about any sudden changes in temp. They do have a concrete overpack they can use but this has not been implemented. No other mitigative controls.

LANL similar is performing similar activities array and temp measurements. Stored in a dome with fire suppression (Dome 230).

WIPP: know # and location of MINO2 waste stream, non on surface, other "similar waste streams" in surface WHB- still being evaluated by WIPP.

No blast shielding at either WCS or LANL.

Also, they provided these responses in a separate email:

1. Can the flam gas data from all drums in the Min-02 waste stream that has been shipped be made available for the State's review?

Response – the requested data are posted on the ICLN Portal

2. NMED would like to participate in the daily LANL calls, is that a problem?

Response – no problem: daily M-Sa at 8:30 am MST at 866-880-6515 Pin 389155#

3. NMED chemists would like to talk to the LANL chemists in regards to the waste stream and activities underway, can I provide them POCs?

Response –

Felecia Taw	ftaw@lanl.gov	505 667 4109
Mark McCleskey	tmark@lanl.gov	505 667 5636
Tori George	torig@lanl.gov	505 667 7883

4. NMED would like something in writing that would explain why the Min-02 waste stream is of concern but the other three waste streams in the AK document are not.

Response – In an ongoing effort to search for the cause of the contamination detected in the WIPP repository, several teams have been evaluating data from the release and from characterization of the waste emplaced in Panel 7, Room 7. As described in CCP-AK-LANL-006, multiple waste streams could contain the nitrate salts waste form. As it is understood today, the most likely of those waste streams to have a questionable mix such as organic absorbent (wheat-based kitty litter) and concerns with the original neutralization agents used when the waste stream was generated, is the LA-MINO2-V.001 waste stream. All waste streams that could contain nitrate salts continue to be evaluated for similar concerns. Even though conservative precautions in the management of this waste stream have been initiated, no conclusions have been reached related to the safety of the waste stream or contamination detected in the WIPP repository.

WIPP RECOVERY 1:00 DAILY MEETING ACTION LIST

Revised 5/07/2014

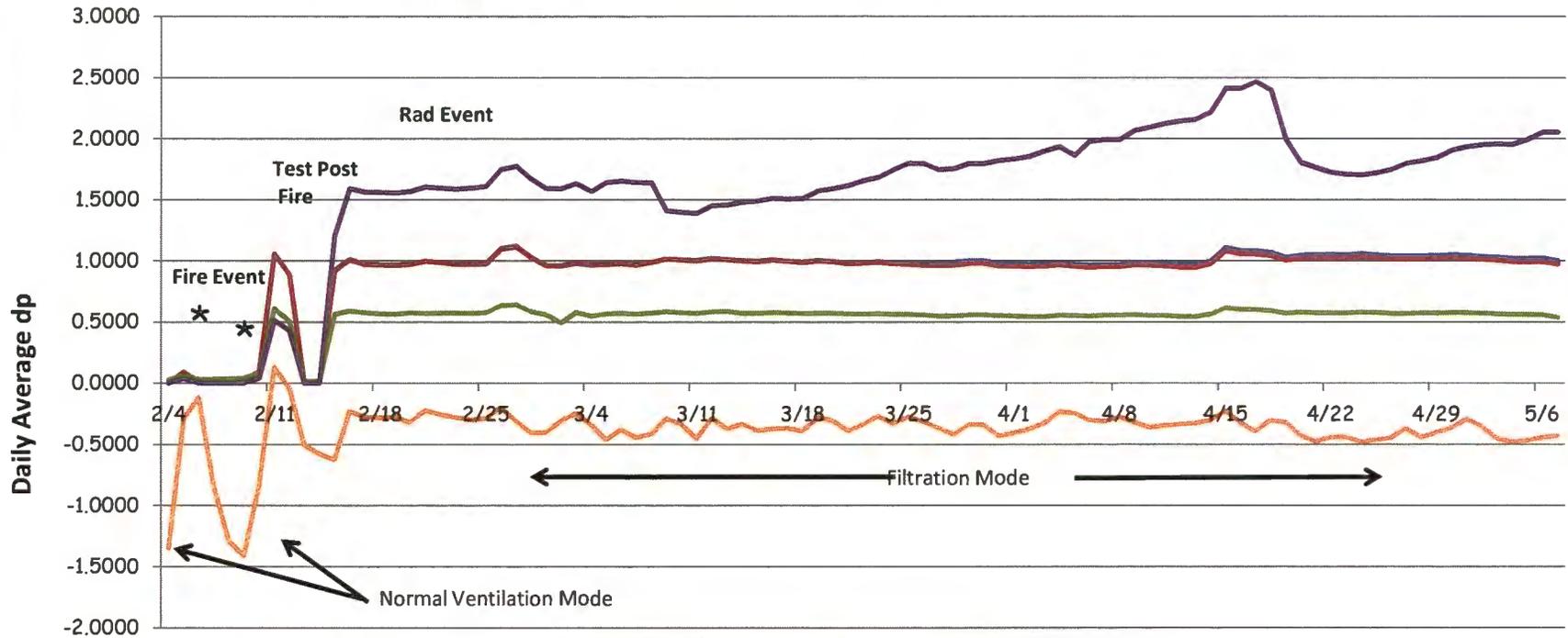
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Date Identified	Requestor	Action	Responsible Person	Due Date	Status
5	03/18/14	Trais Kliphuis	Will receipt of waste at WCS be in compliance with the RCRA permit. For example chain-of-custody issues.	Farok	Discuss tbd. See action item below	Farok described in detail the process that is planned to be used. NMED wants to understand how the program will be audited prior to shipping to WIPP.
6	03/19/14	Trais Kliphuis	Prepare a letter and fact sheet to address NMED regarding controls at WCS to ensure security of containers and compliance with permit.	Farok	3/28/2014	Draft has been shared with NMED. NMED needs additional time to review and provide comments.
20	03/20/14	Trais Kliphuis	Responses to EIS questions asked by NMED will be placed in writing and provided to NMED by next week.	Chavez/Kehrman	4/30 in response to NMED's comment discussed on 4/23.	Re-opened. A response has been posted for NMED review. NMED discussed comments with Chavez & Kehrman on 4/23. Response combined with item #25.
25	03/31/14	Trais Kliphuis	Was the leak at the dampers a source of the release? If not, what was the source?	Rick Chavez	4/30 in response to NMED's comments discussed on 4/23.	A response has been posted for NMED review. NMED discussed comments with Chavez & Kehrman on 4/23. Response combined with item #20.
43	04/22/14	Nick Stone	What are the plans for the waste that is currently in storage in the Waste Handling Building?	Kennedy/Chavez	tbd	The existing NMED Administrative Order addresses this through May 17, 2014.
44	04/23/14	Nick Stone	Are there any plans to view or otherwise gather data from the waste face on the exhaust side of Panel 7, Room 7?	Kennedy	tbd	Plans are to take swipes (5/3) using a pole from the slider at the end of Room 6 (pending CBFO Nuclear Safety review); no physical entry will be made into exhaust side.

WIPP RECOVERY 1:00 DAILY MEETING ACTION LIST

Revised 5/07/2014

	A	B	C	D	E	F
54	5/5/2014 and 5/6/2014	Trais Kliphuis	What is the status of investigating the LANL nitrate salt waste stream? Requested a written summary of LANL activities.	Kennedy	5/6/2014	CCP participated in 5/6 call. CCP (Pearcy) will provide a copy of LANL summary reports to Oba for posting.
55	5/6/2014 and 5/7/2014	Coleman Smith / Nick Stone	Provide "spec sheets" for organic and inorganic absorbents that are inside of the LANL nitrate salt waste stream. Provide any additional analysis performed by LANL, if available.	Sharif/Pearcy	5/6/2014	MSDSs are not available from the manufacture. Procurement information will be provided. NMED is concerned that "procurement" information may not be sufficient. For example, who is the manufacture, where did "wheat chaff" come from, etc.?
56	05/07/14	Trais Kliphuis	What information is LANL hoping to find by collecting additional headspace gas samples on containers with the MIN02 waste stream?	Sharif/Pearcy	tbd	
57	05/07/14	Kathy Economy	Requested isotopic data from Station B samples.	Oba		Oba will post when SNL provides data to the DOE.
58	05/07/14	Trais Kliphuis	Requested flammable gas data on all MIN02 waste stream containers that have been shipped.	Sharif/Pearcy	tbd	
59	05/07/14	Trais Kliphuis	Requested permission for NMED to: • Participate in LANL daily calls on waste stream MIN02. • Speak directly to LANL chemists that are working this issue.	Sharif/Pearcy	tbd	

41-B-856 HEPA Bank and Waste Hoist Tower Differential Pressure



Prior to 2/5/2014 (2/3 @ 0200-0215)

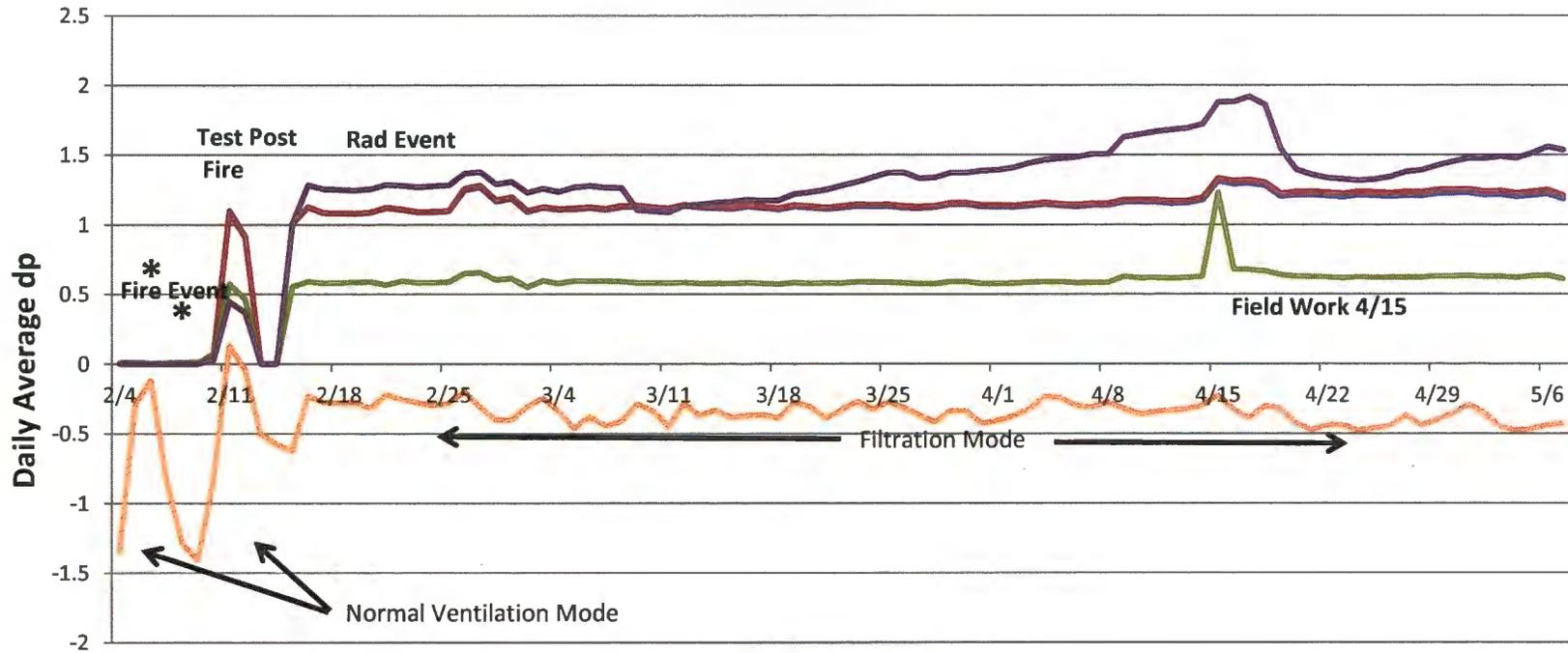
856 Mod	0.47
856 High	0.75
856 HEPA	1.54
856 HEPA	1.45

*** Fire Event Waste Tower dp Details**

During the Fire Event positive dp was seen on 2/5 and 2/6. Overall the dp was negative for the daily average.
 2/5 Positive dp (Avg) + 0.308 (Duration 13 hrs)
 2/6 Positive dp (AVg) + 0.200 (Duration 14 hrs)

- HEPA
- HEPA
- Hi Particulate
- Mod Filter
- WH Tower

41-B-857 HEPA Bank and Waste Hoist Tower Differential Pressure



Prior to 2/5/2014 (2/3 @ 0200-0215)

857	Mod 0.45
857	High 0.75
857	HEPA 1.52
857	HEPA 1.45

*** Fire Event Waste Tower dp Details**

During the Fire Event positive dp was seen on 2/5 and 2/6. Overall the dp was negative for the daily average.
 2/5 Positive dp (Avg) + 0.308 (Duration 13 hrs)
 2/6 Positive dp (Avg) + 0.200 (Duration 14 hrs)

- HEPA
- HEPA
- Hi Particulate
- Mod Filter
- WH Tower

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Swheat Scoop Multicat Litter - 40 lb (27) **\$34.49**



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For Sweet Scoop

CONSUMER EDUCATION INFORMATION



Pet Care Systems, Inc. is in its fifth year marketing 100% natural ground grain cat litter. Included below are some of the questions most frequently asked by our customers.

NATURAL ODOR CONTROL

Protein enzymes naturally occur in cat's urine and wheat. These protein enzymes interact with each other to neutralize the ammonia odor typically associated with litter boxes. The enzymatic action also stops the pathogenic process in the organism. In a litter box, the starch in the wheat clumps firmly and helps encapsulate the odor. Combined with the enzymatic action, the end result is a clean and virtually odor free litter box. It controls the ammonia odor from very large cats.

ODOR CONTROL GUARANTEE

Our wheat litter is guaranteed to keep your litter box odor free.

Required litter box maintenance

- 1. Scoop daily**
- 2. Maintain a minimum 4" product level in your box**
- 3. Change the litter completely every 30 days with one cat.**

RENEWABLE RESOURCE

We use hard red spring/winter wheat and milo to manufacture our 100% natural litter. The manufacturing procedure prepares the grain in a manner that encourages fast clumping, natural odor control and minimal dust. We use secondary wheat (non-food grade) which has the necessary starch properties to maintain the quality product our customers have come to expect. Ground Grain litter is safe for you, your cat, non-toxic to all pets, people and our environment.

ECONOMICAL

Because of the efficient clumping ability of our grain product, your customers will find that the litter will last twice as long as clay litter. Scooping the litter box removes all the contaminates. One 14 LB bag is equal to approximately 22 lbs of clay litter.

CEI 1

Vets recommend that you completely change the wheat litter box every 30 days with one cat and every 15-20 days with multiple cats. As you scoop, you remove the starch, the key clumping and odor control ingredient which you replace as you add litter to maintain the four inch level.

SCOOPABLE AND FLUSHABLE

Ground grain litter naturally clumps when exposed to cat urine or fecal matter. The cat will normally deposit its waste and cover it. The moist material will clump and form a dough ball which encapsulates the odor. The longer the clump sits in the box, the harder the clump gets. However, when you put the clumps in the toilet they will rehydrate and flush into any sewer or septic system. ~~Clumps are biodegradable and will enhance the enzyme activity of the septic system. You are flushing a 100% biodegradable product.~~ You can also dispose of the clumps into your garbage. They will biodegrade naturally in a landfill and have a neutral effect on the environment. If the litter sticks to the bottom of the litter pan, this means that the litter is not deep enough in the pan. Some consumers will spray a non-stick spray on the pan to eliminate any sticking. Keep a 4" to 5" level in the pan at all times. This is especially important if multiple cats are using the same litter box.

NO CRYSTALLINE SILICA DUST

According to OSHA material data sheets supplied by a clay litter manufacturer, bentonite clay products contain crystalline silica dust which may cause delayed respiratory disease if inhaled over a prolonged period of time. They warn the workers to avoid breathing the dust. In 1997, a working group of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) published a monograph classifying inhaled crystalline silica from occupational sources as carcinogenic to humans, and categorized it as an IARC Group 1 agent. This category is used only when IARC finds there is sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity. Silica dust is found in all clay litters. Proposition 65 of the state of California mandated that all clay litter sold in their state must carry the following label: "This product contains silica, known to the state of California to cause cancer." For more information on the dangers of silica dust, contact your local library or the Center for Poison Control.

The OSHA and IARC information comes from published material. Since silica dust is not good for the human respiratory system consider the problems it could have on the small lungs of your cat.

NO SODIUM BENTONITE CLAY

Wheat litter does not contain bentonite clay. One of the main ingredients of clumping clay litter is Sodium Bentonite Clay, a naturally swelling clay. When liquid is added, clay litter swells to almost 15 times its original volume. It has been known to block the intestinal track as it can become as hard as cement. Your cats cannot digest clay litter.

ENVIRONMENT

Grain litter is 100% natural and biodegradable. Just because something is natural does not mean that it is good for you or your cat. Clay litters are natural. However, they consist mainly of small clay particles and silica dust. The United States has 58 million cats. The principle litter used is clay which is currently being disposed of in our landfills. For every 450 cats, one truckload or 45,000 lbs of clay litter is dumped into our landfills each year. In 1992, over 90,000 truck loads of litter were dumped into our landfills. Landfill use and needs would greatly be reduced if we would change to a biodegradable litter. Grain litter is the most effective alternative litter on the market today. Ground grain litter is safe for you and your cat! It's non-toxic to pets, people and our environment.

TRACKING

Tracking is minimal. The natural shape of the cats' paw holds small particles. It will stick to their fur, between their toes, and track away from the litter box. Placing a small carpet or rug around the litter box will help detach that litter with your cats' first step and any tracking can be easily contained. Wheat litter, being more like a cookie crumb, is easily wiped up with a damp cloth or vacuum. Unlike Clay litters, wheat does not leave an oily residue or film. A customer found that if you use an extra deep litter box 9"-10" and you keep 6"-7" of wheat litter in the box, you can eliminate the litter sticking to the bottom when a cat dumps on the waste of another cat. Using an extra deep box will also help reduce tracking and the scattering of litter if your cat has a vigorous covering technique.

PRODUCTION

Our production plant in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota is in the heart of the wheat growing region of the Great Plains states. Our product is processed in a plant similar to a food grade plant. Major emphasis is put on producing our litter free of bug or insect infestation and removing unnecessary flour. We start with cleaned secondary wheat, processed through de-bugging equipment and an added feature of our packaging is the hot glue seal closure on the bags. This will prevent any bugs or insects from entering the bag through a sew hole. Our product should have a shelf life exceeding one year. Retailers are asked to rotate their stock.

CATS LOVE THE LITTER

Grain is a protein and cats are naturally attracted to ground grain litter. Because of the soft texture in the naturally processed grain litter, you will find that cats will be easily attracted to the new litter in their box. If your cat is fussy, our customers tell us to put the wheat litter on the bottom, add one inch of your old litter on top and let your cat mix it up as it uses the litter box. On the next change, put all wheat litter in the box and it should be readily accepted.

OTHER ANIMALS:

Wheat litter is also recommended for rabbits, ferrets and birds. Rabbits may initially nibble on the wheat as it is a protein source, but will usually quit after 2-3 days. Birds should be in a cage with a grate. As the litter is digestible it is passed through as normal food. If your dog is prone to eat snacks from the cats litter box, normal amounts will pass through as normal food.

PACKAGING

Our current packaging is in bags that are environmentally friendly. We offer a 10 lb bag and a 25 LB bags in the CITY LITTER BRAND for the mass markets. Private labeling is also available.

PATENT

Pet Care Systems owns two patents on ground grain litter. As a patent holder, we can prevent similar wheat products from entering the market place. Ground grain litter is a natural product renewable recourse and the true alternative litter for the next century. International registration of the patents is in the process.

Safe for you, your cat and our environment

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Good for the Earth (1)

Each year, over 2 million tons of cat litter ends up in municipal solid waste landfills (Judd Alexander, In Defense of Garbage, Praeger 1993). Most of that litter, an estimated 100,000 truckloads per year, is made from clay that is mined and doesn't biodegrade because it's never reabsorbed by the earth. That's why the time is right to consider the merits of a product like Swheat Scoop Natural Wheat Litter.

100% biodegradable.

Strictly speaking, clay-based litters never biodegrade because they cannot be absorbed or broken down by the organic environment. But Swheat Scoop litter will readily break down upon disposal and simply dissolve away.

Sewer and septic safe.

Swheat Scoop is the only cat litter on the market that's certified flushable by the SGS U.S. Testing Company, an independent research organization. Which means that clumps of this product can be safely flushed without clogging your sewer or septic system, when used as directed.

100% compostable.

Swheat Scoop litter can be composted or used as mulch for ornamental plants (non-vegetable gardens) once it has been thoroughly scooped.

A renewable resource.

Swheat Scoop litter is made from naturally processed, secondary (non-food grade) wheat grown in the heart of the Great Plains states.

Clay Litter (1)

Some cat owners question the safety of scoopable clay litters for their family and pets. They want to know if it's harmful to inhale the silica dust when these products are poured. And whether it's hazardous if their cat licks or ingests the granules during grooming.

While Swheat Scoop is a scoopable litter, it's 100% clay-free. It doesn't require any silica, sodium bentonite, chemicals or flowery fragrances to clump and control odor. And Swheat Scoop is naturally non-toxic because it's made from naturally processed wheat. In fact, this litter is so gentle, it's even recommended by veterinarians for kittens and newly declawed cats.

Fast Facts (1)

Product - Swheat Scoop is an all-natural scoopable litter that's made from naturally processed (non-food grade) wheat. Its natural wheat enzymes work continuously to eliminate odors, no matter how many cats you own.

Package - Swheat Scoop litter is available in a 13.5 lb. box, as well as 14, 25 and 40 lb. bags. Our new Disposable Litter Box comes with a 5 lb. supply.

Price - Swheat Scoop is competitively priced with premium clumping and alternative litters.