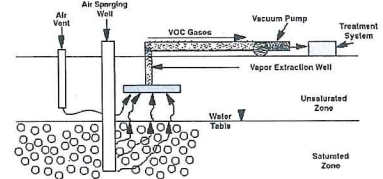


Marchese vs. CTS/EPA

Should the CTS/EPA do more?



CTS
Electronics Manufacturing Solutions



Prepared by:

Issue Summary

A. List the courses in which instruction occurred including the number of students involved in the instruction of the issue.

Agriscience Applications 6810 (25 students) - discussed the competencies with in the curriculum and the importance of stewardship and the preservation of our most basic natural resources including clean air and water.

Animal Science I 6821 (30 students) - researched the importance on the necessity of providing clean and untainted water for livestock production.

Animal Science II 6822 (24 students) – viewed WLOS video on the CTS contamination and the future affects this issue could have on Western North Carolina livestock production due to water contamination.

Environmental and Natural Resources I 6851 (25 students) – discussed the competencies with in the curriculum with emphasis on the preservation of our most basic natural resources including clean air and water. Also, some of these students attended the showing of a local documentary, entitled “My Toxic Backyard” in Asheville, NC.

B. Why is this issue important now?

Near Asheville, NC there is a 57-acre site that was an industrial facility known as Chicago Telephone Supply Company (CTS) of Asheville, Inc. The plant was used for manufacturing electronic parts and electroplating from 1952 to 1986. However, in 1999, all but 9 acres were sold to developers, and the gated community of Southside Village was built. According to residents, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has known about the contamination since 1987. However, the EPA did not propose the site for the National Priorities List of hazardous sites, a virtual prerequisite for cleanup under the federal “Superfund” program, until last month, March of 2011. Families have unknowingly drank contaminated water and consequently lost members to cancer in the past 10 years. There are also numerous acres of farm land adjacent to this property as well and there are concerns of contamination migration. Many local residents feel that the EPA has simply not done enough to clean up the contamination in the area of declining home and property values.

C. What is the nature of this issue?

The primary contaminant at the site is trichloroethylene (TCE), a probable carcinogen, which breaks down into vinyl chloride, a confirmed carcinogen. TCE is used to dissolve the oils off of electronic components before assembling them. TCE has been found near the facility in the soil, groundwater, surface water, sediment, air, and even in the bark of trees. According to residents, TCE is leaching into the groundwater daily and has already migrated two miles from the site. Soil samples taken in 2001 showed enormous levels of TCE in soil beneath the site, reaching 830,000 parts per billion (ppb). In 2007, TCE was found in nearby springs at 293,000 ppb. The federal legal limit for TCE in water is 5 ppb, and the state limit is 3 ppb. When the facility was operational, wastes were dumped directly into an adjacent creek. High levels of TCE have been found in at least three creeks. “Lots of the people who live closest to the site and who are hit the hardest are very poor. “Most of them don’t have the means to leave. They can’t move, they can’t sell their homes, because their property values have gone down.” “We hear about every two weeks of someone else who’s got cancer or who’s died,” said Tate MacQueen, spokesperson for CTS Citizens’ Monitoring Council, an independent community organization.

D. Who is involved in the issue?

Numerous residents are being affected by this issue. It has continually been in the local news and has been on the national news since it has been forwarded to the United States Supreme Court for further action. The home and land owners near the contaminated site are being dramatically affected. They are experiencing personal loss due to cancer and other health issues that they feel are directly related to this contamination. Local farmers who grow numerous agricultural products and sell them to Asheville restaurants, farmers markets and tail gate markets are also concerned regarding the health of their crops and livestock. They also are questioning the residual affects these chemicals will have in their products and how these may affect the health of the consumers. Of course the local environment is being tragically affected. The waste that first contaminated this site 50-60 years ago is continually leaching into the ground water, aquifers and creeks. Finally, every tax payer is a stake holder in this and related issues. We must hold our government accountable to insure that the policy makers enforce environmental rules and regulations with large global corporations. It is important to have large corporations like CTS to provide employment opportunities for our citizens, but they must not put

Issue Summary

greed and profits above public and environmental health. They must not be able build a business, pollute the area and then move on to the next location.

E. How can the issue be defined?

The issue regarding the industrial contamination of the CTS site and the local residents' concerns that the EPA has simply not done enough to clean up the site is the main topic for our debate. Sure the EPA has invested resources to address the contamination, however the citizens feel the EPA should and could do more and should provide more resources and expertise. This issue is continually being debated both on local and national levels.

F. What is the historical background of this issue?

1952: Internal Resistor Corp. buys land on Mills Gap Road and starts electroplating operations.

1959: The site and building are sold to CTS Corp.

1986: CTS stops manufacturing at the site, sells it to Mills Gap Road Associates the following year.

1988: EPA starts a study of the site. The results recommend a Phase 2 study, was completed in 1990.

1993: Placed on the N.C. Dept. of Env. and Nat. Res. inactive hazardous waste site list.

1997: Mills Gap Road Assoc. subdivides site and sells 44 acres to developers.

1999: The springs, which feed drinking water wells, are found to have high levels of TCE.

2004: EPA executes an administrative order of consent with CTS and Mills Gap Road Associates.

2006: A soil vapor extraction system installed begins removing contaminants beneath the plant.

2007: Testing shows contamination may be spreading. One well tests positive for high levels of TCE.

2008: The County runs a city waterline to the subdivision. The EPA conducts vapor studies at the site.

2010: A public health assessment conducted by the state concluded that contamination did not have adverse health effects.

Feb. 2011: 25 residents living near the site file a lawsuit in federal court seeking unspecified monetary damages and to force the company to remove the contamination.

Feb. 2012: A judge dismisses the lawsuit. The plaintiffs appeal the ruling the next month.

Mar. 2012: EPA announces the CTS site added to the National Priorities List of Superfund sites.

Jul. 2013: The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals rules in favor of the lawsuit's plaintiffs, allowing the case to proceed to trial.

Sept. 2013: CTS Corp. appeals the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Jan. 2014: The Supreme Court agrees to consider the company's appeal.

Apr. 2014: The Supreme Court hears CTS Case.

G. What caused the issue?

The state becomes aware that there is petroleum in springs on the property bordering CTS. The springs, which feed drinking water wells, are found to have high levels of trichloroethylene, or TCE. Numerous residents become ill and many die of cancer. Local small farmers become concerned on how these chemicals will affect their property. Additional testing finds high levels of TCE and other volatile organic compounds underneath the CTS plant.

H. What are the risks?

If court action rules in favor of the EPA and CTS the following may occur:

- More illness and cancer occurrences possibly due to TCE contamination
- Continued environmental damage to the property located adjacent to the former CTS plant
- Possible chemical residual affects to agricultural crops and livestock
- Continued adverse damage to the environment

I. What are the benefits?

If court action is taken against the EPA and CTS the following may occur:

- Financial settlements for the victims affected by this contamination
- More environmental compliance among large, global corporations
- Improve the integrity and appreciation of both our local and global environments
- Improve the quality of the 1 percent of human consumable water on our planet

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E-Mail Contact

Urquhart-Foster, Samantha. Remedial Project Manager, Asheville CTS Superfund Manager February-May 2014. urquhart-foster.samantha@epa.gov

Interviews/Meetings

MacQueen, Tate. Community advocate for CTS Cleanup, Resident of affected subdivision. March-June 2014. peter.macqueen@BCSemail.org, Madison High School, My Toxic Backyard Q&A

McKinney, Chris. Resident of affected subdivision, June 2, 2014.

Nichols, Sara. Madison County NRCS Agent. February-June 2014. snichols@madisoncountync.gov.

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Morrison, C. (2014, May 15). Toxic Plume Revealed at Asheville CTS Site. *Asheville Citizen-Times*.
Morrison, C. (2014, January 18). U.S Supreme Court to hear CTS Case. *Asheville Citizen-Times*.

Videos

Damien, K. (Director). (2014). *My Toxic Backyard* United States: KD Media.

Graphics

Google Images
<http://www.google.com> www.epa.gov

CTS Site

Residents Property
www.citizen-times.com

Additional Photos taken
by Team Members

List of Forum Presentations

Thank you to the following who heard Local Forum Presentations

When	Where	To Whom	# Present
February 28, 2014	Marshall, NC	Madison USDA Office	4
March 11, 2014	Marshall, NC	Madison Soil and Water Conservation Board of Directors	11
April 3, 2014	Marshall, NC	Mr. Tate MacQueen, Ms. Bethan MacQueen	3
April 29, 2014	Haywood, NC	Western Region FFA Rally	250
May 7, 2014	Marshall, NC	Career Technical Education Advisory Council Meeting	22
May 8, 2014	Marshall, NC	Madison County Rotary Club	41
May 13, 2014	Marshall, NC	Madison County Board of Commissioners	34
May 19, 2014	Marshall, NC	Madison County Board of Education	10
May 22, 2014	Marshall, NC	NC State Cooperative Extension Office/Madison FFA Spring Banquet	203
June 2, 2014	Mills Gap, NC	Local Residents at CTS Contamination Site	3

Local Forum Presentations

The Madison FFA Ag. Issues Forum was presented to the Madison USDA Office Staff.
(Clark Fowler not in attendance)

Madison USDA Office

Date: February 28, 2014

Number in Attendance: 4



Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District
4388 Hwy. US 25/70 Suite 2 - Marshall, North Carolina 28753 - (828) 649-5313

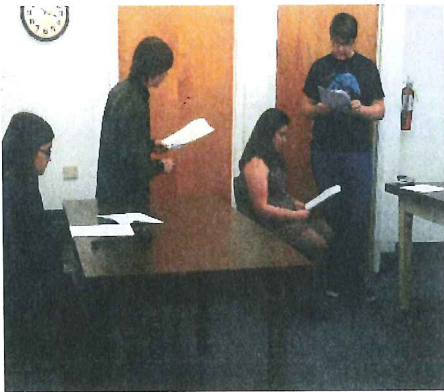
Dear Mr. Chuck Michol,

Members of the USDA service center and the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District Board thank you for coming to present your Ag. Issues debate on the CTS site in Asheville on April 15th, 2014. We enjoyed working with the students and hearing what they've learned on this topic. We were very impressed at the presentation's professionalism so early in the process and wish them the very best at the competition, although no matter the results we are sure that they will represent Madison County well. Please think of us to present in the future.

Sincerely,

Sara Nichols

Sara Nichols
Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District
Soil Conservationist



Since the topic at hand is both agriculturally and environmentally tied, the Madison FFA Ag. Issues Forum was presented to the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation Board of Directors.

Madison Soil and Water Conservation Board of Directors

Date: March 11, 2014

Number in Attendance: 11



Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District
4388 Hwy. US 25/70 Suite 2 - Marshall, North Carolina 28753 - (828) 649-5313

Dear Mr. Chuck Michol,

Members of the USDA service center and the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District Board thank you for coming to present your Ag. Issues debate on the CTS site in Asheville on April 15th, 2014. We enjoyed working with the students and hearing what they've learned on this topic. We were very impressed at the presentation's professionalism so early in the process and wish them the very best at the competition, although no matter the results we are sure that they will represent Madison County well. Please think of us to present in the future.

Sincerely,

Sara Nichols

Sara Nichols
Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District
Soil Conservationist



Local Forum Presentations

The Madison FFA Ag. Issues Forum is presented to Tate MacQueen who is an advocate in this situation. He has recently travelled to the Supreme Court in Washington D.C. in representation of the Mills Gap Community. He and his family live less than a mile away from the contaminated site.

Tate MacQueen, Ms. Bethan MacQueen

Date: April 3, 2014

Number in Attendance: 3



Mr. Chuck Wether
Madison County High School
5140 Hwy 22 W
Marion, NC 28753

Dear Mr. Wether:

It has been an honor to have your school's team of students attend the Mills Gap vs. CTS/EPA case at the Supreme Court in Washington D.C. in representation of the Mills Gap Community. He and his family live less than a mile away from the contaminated site.

The Supreme Court's decision in the Mills Gap vs. CTS/EPA case is a landmark decision for the community. It is a victory for the community and a victory for the environment. I am proud of the students who represented the community and the environment.

I want to thank your school's team of students for their participation in the Mills Gap vs. CTS/EPA case. I am proud of the students who represented the community and the environment.

Sincerely,

Tate MacQueen
Tate R. MacQueen
Member of Congress

1/1/2014

The Madison FFA Ag. Issues Forum was presented during our Regional Rally at Haywood Community College. Those present included FFA Members, FFA Advisors, State Agricultural Education Representatives, and teachers.

Western Region FFA Rally

Date: April 29, 2014

Number in Attendance: 250



Brevard High School Agriculture Dept
747 Country Club Rd.
Brevard, NC 28712



To Whom It May Concern:

As the 2014-2015 Regional Advisor for the West FFA Region, it was my pleasure to have the Madison High School Agricultural Issues team at our Spring FFA Rally to present their forum entitled Mills Gap vs. CTS/EPA, regarding environmental pollution. This group demonstrated great poise and stage presence in front of over 250 guests, composed of other agricultural education students, FFA advisors and special guests at our West Region FFA Rally on April 29, 2014.

This team of students demonstrated and modeled for the rest of the group an excellent presentation and I received several comments on the professionalism of the students by other teachers and guests in attendance.

Sincerely,

Andy VonCanon

Andy VonCanon

West FFA Region
Advisor

Local Forum Presentations

The Madison Career and Technical Education Advisory Council meets twice in the spring. Our council consists of CTE teachers, MHS administrators, community leaders, and industry leaders. Dr. Carolyn Franklin, our CTE director allowed us to present our forum at our last spring meeting.

Career and Technical Education Advisory Council Meeting

Date: May 7, 2014

Number in Attendance: 22



May 7, 2014

Mr. Michel,



Carolyn Franklin, CTE Director

I wish to commend Madison High School's FFA Agriculture Issues Team for their presentation to the Madison County Schools CTE Advisory Council today. Our membership really enjoyed the performance and the interaction and questioning session that followed. This topic is an area of concern to all our citizens and it is refreshing to see young people take up this cause and become a positive voice for our environment.

We wish this group of young people the best of luck in their competition at the state level.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carolyn T. Franklin,
Madison County Schools CTE Director

The Madison FFA Ag. Issues Forum was presented to the Madison County Rotary Club. Traditionally, we present to this group of professional MHS supporters. They always provide technical support and many are aware of issues we discuss.

Madison County Rotary Club

Date: May 8, 2014

Number in Attendance: 41



THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADISON COUNTY

P.O. Box 141

Mars Hill, NC 28754

The News-Record & Sentinel

Page 3

FFA presents contamination forum



May 13, 2014

Chuck Michel
Madison High FFA Club
Madison High School
5738 Highway 25/70
Marshall NC 28753

Dear Chuck,

Thanks once again for bringing the FFA students to make their presentation to our Rotary Club on May 8. Club members always enjoy seeing the young people practice their presentations for competition.

We look forward to your club participation in our Hot Doggett Bike Ride fundraiser in July and, as always, appreciate the relationship that we continue to have with the FFA students.

Sincerely,

Sandy Stevenson
Sandy Stevenson
Secretary,
Rotary Club of Madison County



Local Forum Presentations

The Madison FFA Ag. Issues Forum was presented at the County Commissioners Meeting. At this meeting, we received the privilege of presenting our forum in the Madison County Courthouse.

Madison County Board of Commissioners

Date: May 13, 2014

Number in Attendance: 34



MADISON COUNTY
Commissioner's Office

May 15, 2014

To Whom It May Concern

The Madison County Board of Commissioners had the pleasure of hearing the Madison FFA Agricultural Issues Team forum presentation on May 13, 2014. The subject of the forum is the soil and water contamination in Asheville, North Carolina at the former CTS property site and the effects the contamination has had on local residents. This issue is currently being discussed in the United States Supreme Court. Their forum is a court scene and it is fitting that the students had the opportunity to use the county's courtroom for their presentation.

The topic is relevant to the issues both locally and nationally concerning whose responsibility it is to clean up contaminated waste sites and how the cleanup projects will be financed. This issue has come about in the local news and has been discussed by numerous concerned citizens.

These students should be commended for their work to prepare for this forum, as well as the professionalism with which they are representing their county.

Sincerely,

Wayne Brummett
Wayne Brummett
Chairman

The Madison FFA Ag. Issues Forum was presented to the Madison County Board of Education. Our School Board is very supportive of our FFA chapter and always assists with thought provoking questions and suggestions.

Madison County Board of Education

Date: May 19, 2014

Number in Attendance: 10



Madison County Schools

Board of Education
Sue Tolley, Chairman
Lori Hagan Massey, Vice Chair
Craig G. Keith, Ph.D., Member
Dwayne "Bub" Wilcox, Member
Kathy Cady, Member

Superintendent
Ronald Wilcox, Ed.D.
Contact Information:
5733 US Highway 25/50
Mars Hill, NC 28755
Phone: 828-649-8256
Fax: 828-649-9334

May 20, 2014

The Madison High School FFA Agricultural Issues Team presented their forum to the Madison County Board of Education on May 19 at 4:30 PM. This was a very informative presentation that discussed a timely and important environmental topic.

Respectfully,

Ronald Wilcox

Ronald Wilcox, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Local Forum Presentations

The Madison FFA Ag. Issues Forum was presented to the Cooperative Extension Service which consisted of staff members, farmers, and agricultural specialists. The Madison FFA Agricultural Issues Forum team traditionally presents at our annual awards banquet. FFA members, parents, school administrators, school board members, county commissioners and local farmers are in attendance and have the opportunity to listen to and critique our team.

NC State Cooperative Extension Office/Madison FFA Spring Banquet

Date: May 22, 2014

Number in Attendance: 203



NORTH CAROLINA
AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY

May 23, 2014

Mr. Michel,

I wanted to let you know that I very much enjoyed Madison High School's FFA group presentation today to the Madison Cooperative Extension staff. Your students were very knowledgeable on the issue regarding the CTS environmental problem occurring in our own back door. Our staff was impressed by not only the content of the talk but also their presentation skills. I am confident they will do well in the upcoming competition. As I mentioned earlier today, please feel free to have your students contact me if they have any questions.

Sincerely,

James Beck
James Beck

Alternative Agriculture Agent

UN-NC
BECOME

Higher education opportunities are available through the University of North Carolina system. For more information, contact your local Cooperative Extension Office or the University of North Carolina system. The University of North Carolina system is a public institution of higher learning. It is the policy of the University of North Carolina system to provide equal opportunity to all persons without regard to race, sex, age, or national origin.

The Madison FFA Ag. Issues Forum Team provided an informal presentation to local residents at the former CTS Plant entrance. We had a question and answer session with Chris McKinney, a resident who lives directly across from the site. He shared both the pros and cons relating to this issue. However, he did express that his family does not consume/use any water from local wells nor city water that has been provided to the residents. He feels that it will cost millions of dollars to settle this issue, and the resolution is still uncertain in the near future.

Mills Gap, North Carolina Presentation To Local Residents At CTS Contamination Site

Date: June 2, 2014

Number in Attendance: 3





Visiting the CTS site was truly a surreal experience after seeing the site in pictures and hearing the stories of the working days of the plant to the tragedies that have occurred since. Our team has a compassionate interest in Environmental Science and this project has been a rewarding challenge. We appreciate all who have spoken to us on the CTS case and have been open in sharing their knowledge of the events.