



Mark Parkinson, Governor  
Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND ENVIRONMENT

[www.kdheks.gov](http://www.kdheks.gov)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
March 3, 2010

Contact: Kristi Pankratz, 785-368-8053  
[kpankratz@kdheks.gov](mailto:kpankratz@kdheks.gov)  
[www.kdheks.gov](http://www.kdheks.gov)

### **KDHE Conducts Tests on Material found in Chanute**

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) conducted laboratory tests on particulate material found in a residential area of northern Chanute and has determined that the material is non-hazardous.

On Friday, February 26, KDHE responded to a citizen's concern about particulate material, described as reddish-brownish flakes or chips, found in northern Chanute. KDHE collected samples of the material which were tested by the KDHE Lab on Monday, March 1.

Results returned Tuesday, March 2 show that the material consists primarily of iron oxide (rust) and trace amounts of other metals, including lead, mercury, chromium and manganese. No hazardous levels of the metals were detected. Lab analysis also confirmed that there are no organic compounds in the chips.

"KDHE believes the flakes appeared to be a rusty scale and may have originated from the inside wall of the upper portion of the Ash Grove Cement Plant's stack," said William Bider, Director of KDHE's Bureau of Waste.

Ash Grove Cement Plant is located north of the residential area affected by the flakes. KDHE has had several discussions with Ash Grove representatives to determine the status of plant operations during the time of the incident. Records indicate that no alternate fuels were being burned at the time; however, operating conditions related to gas flow velocity and temperature did increase at nearly the same time. These operation changes potentially dislodged some scale from the upper part of the stack.

KDHE's Director of Health, Dr. Jason Eberhart-Phillips has evaluated the circumstances of the release and the composition of the material.

"It appears that this release to the neighboring properties should not have resulted in any adverse health impacts to residents," Dr. Eberhart-Phillips said.

If residents find flakes in their area, they should dispose of them in the trash. They are encouraged to wash their hands after handling it, as minor skin irritation could arise – similar to any skin contact with rust.

“KDHE appreciates the cooperative approach to this investigation demonstrated by city and county government officials and remains committed to being responsive to community concerns,” said Roderick Bremby, KDHE Secretary.

For a copy of the analytical lab analysis, please e-mail Kristi Pankratz at [kpankratz@kdheks.gov](mailto:kpankratz@kdheks.gov) or call 785-368-8053. For information about the report, please contact William Bider at [wbider@kdheks.gov](mailto:wbider@kdheks.gov)

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*As the state’s environmental protection and public health agency, KDHE promotes responsible choices to protect the health and environment for all Kansans.*

*Through education, direct services and the assessment of data and trends, coupled with policy development and enforcement, KDHE will improve health and quality of life. We prevent illness, injuries and foster a safe and sustainable environment for the people of Kansas.*



**KANSAS HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES**  
**Kansas Department of Health and Environment**  
**Forbes Field, Bldg. 740, Topeka, Kansas 66620-0001**



**REPORT OF ANALYSIS**

**INORGANIC CHEMISTRY**

Report To: SE DISTRICT OFFICE - CHANUTE  
 Attn: Charley Bowers  
 1500 W. 7TH ST.  
 CHANUTE KS 66720-9701

Analysis Code: PT Lab Number: 542830

3DT00  
 Site ID: CHNT0001  
 Account Code: HD

Collection Location: Various Locations North Chanute-mostly by Power Plant  
 Collector: Charley Bowers Matrix: Solid Collect Depth:  
 Date/Time Collected: 02/26/10 15:00 Date/Time Received: 03/01/10 13:22

Sample Comments: Intial Radiation screen negative. Additional report to Bill Bider.

Parameter	Analytical Result	Units	Analysis Date	Analytical Method
Aluminum (Total)	230	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Antimony (Total)	< 50	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Arsenic (Total)	< 5.0	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Barium (Total)	7.5	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Beryllium (Total)	< 0.10	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Boron (Total)	< 50	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Cadmium (Total)	< 5.0	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Calcium (Total)	1200	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Chromium (Total)	87	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Cobalt (Total)	16	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Copper (Total)	35	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Iron (Total)	550000	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Lead (Total)	29	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Magnesium (Total)	58	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Manganese (Total)	5300	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Mercury (Total)	2.5	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 245.1
Molybdenum (Total)	< 2.0	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Nickel (Total)	34	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Potassium (Total)	72	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Selenium (Total)	< 5.0	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Silica (Total)	170	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Silver (Total)	< 1.0	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Sodium (Total)	8.3	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Strontium (Total)	< 10	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Thallium (Total)	< 5.0	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Vanadium (Total)	8.5	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010
Zinc (Total)	35	mg/Kg	03/02/10	EPA 6010

Analytical Comments:  
 Results for total metals are expressed on an as received basis.

Reporting Analyst: JAB *Jon Bowers*  
 Date Reported: 03/02/10  
 Copies To: File

< - Not Detected at Indicated Level  
 \* - Holding Time Exceeded

Dennis Dagner BWM Suite 320 1000 SW Jackson Topeka KS 66612  
 John Mitchell DOE Director 1000 SW Jackson Topeka KS 66612  
 Rick Brunetti BOA Director 1000 SW Jackson Topeka KS 66612

Received

MAR 03 2010

Laboratory Customer Service - (785) 296-1620  
 Laboratory Fax - (785) 296-1641  
 CLIA No. 17D0648254

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT  
 DEPT. OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT