

U.S. Department of Labor

Occupational Safety and Health Administration
230 South Dearborn Street, Room 3244
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 353-2220



MAY 19 2017

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The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
633 W. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 1920
Milwaukee, WI 53203

Dear Senator Baldwin:

Thank you for your letter dated May 1, 2017 to Dorothy Dougherty, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) concerning the article by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel describing the handling of chemicals and hazardous waste by Grief, Inc./ Container Life Cycle Management, LLC dba Mid-America Steel Drum Company, Inc. with sites in Milwaukee, St. Francis and Oak Creek, Wisconsin.

OSHA's Milwaukee Area Office opened a complaint related inspection on October 27, 2016 at the 2300 W. Cornell Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin site. OSHA's investigation included multiple site visits by a Compliance Officer and Assistant Area Director. Interviews were conducted with all site workers, facility manager and corporate managers. Contact was also made with representatives of the Teamsters Local 200 Union, which represent the workers at the Cornell Street site.

On March 15, 2017, a conference call was held with OSHA representatives and representatives from your office. During the call, an explanation was provided on how OSHA handles complaints about site specific safety and health concerns. Also discussed were other issues raised by the article that may be under the jurisdiction of other agencies, including DOT, EPA and WI Department of Natural Resources. It was noted, that if any site specific allegations of serious hazards were brought to OSHA's attention regarding either the Oak Creek or St. Francis sites, they would be evaluated and handled in accordance with OSHA's policies and procedures. During the site visits and interviews, OSHA was not made aware of any of the same or similar hazards noted in the newspaper article at either of the other two Grief, Inc. facilities located in St. Francis and Oak Creek, Wisconsin. At the completion of our inspection, a Citation and Notification of Penalty was issued on April 12, 2017. Investigations by other agencies may still be on going.

I hope that this information is helpful to you. If additional information is needed, please feel free to contact me or the Milwaukee OSHA Area Office at (414) 297-3315.

Sincerely,


Ken Nishiyama Atha
Regional Administrator

cc: Christine Zortman, Area Director
CCU #829918