

## Jakub, Barbara, Env. Health

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**From:** Jakub, Barbara, Env. Health  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 13, 2010 11:48 AM  
**To:** 'Jakun Koo'  
**Cc:** 'Derek Wong'  
**Subject:** RE: RO3013 Sunny Piedmont Cleaners

Dear Mr. Koo,

I appreciate that you are in compliance with all of the CUPA regulations for the site. While secondary containment for dry cleaning machines may be a new requirement, polluting groundwater has not been allowed from before you began operating the dry cleaning facility. Unfortunately, there was a release at the site as evidenced by the contamination discovered in the soil. Ultimately we are tasked with this work in order to protect your neighbors from the released contaminants from the site. Due to the nature of the contaminant, groundwater must be sampled and analyzed. In addition, the vapor intrusion pathway will need to be evaluated. I requested that your consultant advance to groundwater in the area of the dry cleaning machine but he said the rig was unable to get to groundwater at that location. The fall back plan was to collect groundwater along a transect because we do not know the exact direction of the groundwater flow in this area. An angle boring is another possible way to get a groundwater sample from beneath the dry cleaning machine. I am waiting for this information to be submitted to me as I discussed with your consultant.

Regards,

Barbara Jakub, P.G.  
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Online case files are available at the website below  
<http://www.acgov.org/aceh/lop/resources.htm>

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**From:** Jakun Koo [mailto:jimmykoo9@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 13, 2010 9:51 AM  
**To:** Jakub, Barbara, Env. Health  
**Subject:** Jimmy Koo

Dear Ms. Barbara Jakub,

My name is Jimmy Koo, the owner of Sunny Piedmont Cleaner in Oakland.  
I am very sorry to trouble you with this e-mail in your busy schedule of so much work.

While I respect and praise your business ethics to take care of individual case professionally, I would like to ask you to spare a few minutes to read my e-mail because both my family and my business are going through a very difficult time now due to a situation with underground soil contamination at our facility and time to take corrective actions.

I am a very hard-working and law-abiding, respectable citizen that has been spending more than 10 hours every day for the last 20 years in order to run and grow this business.

In 2001, the landlord applied to have the property refinanced and it required extensive testing of underground soil for possible contamination. To my great surprise and disappointment, the first round of tests revealed slight contamination in one of five samples to the depth of 5 feet. I must

attribute the previous owner to the contamination because when I took over the the business in 1990, there was no requirement of secondary containment by laws and regulations.

After I took over the business, the government put into effects lots of requirements including secondary containment, records of PERC purchasing, implementation of hazardous waste control, and etc. I did my best to keep up with all the requirements and have never been cited for any kind of violation by now. I have kept all the related documents to prove this and can present them to you if necessary. I am prepared to take necessary actions on this matter to keep my record clean and will follow your recommendation.

The second round of tests for underground soil contamination to the depths of 5 feet, 10 feet, and 15 feet revealed no contamination at all. But it took 1 year and 3 months for this great news to finally relieve my family from continuous worries and subsequent stresses. During the time, both my wife and I could not sleep well because of potential disastrous results that would have affected the business negatively. My wife started to develop unstable conditions, both physically and mentally, and had to seek medical treatment. I am still required by you to submit test results for underground water and trying to get this job coordinated with contractors.

I immigrated to the USA with a dream to be successful, to enjoy freedom and to pursue my happiness.

My hard-working paid with a very stable business thanks to good relationship with the landlord, the clients, and the local governments and communities.

When things were terribly bad for the people and the country some 200 years ago, our ancestors in difficult times were comforted by the Declaration of Independence that guarantees the citizens the rights of Life, Liberty, and Pursuit of happiness.

Just like them, I am going through the difficult times in this unprecedented harsh economy and the contamination issue has devastated my family and we lost smiles on our face because of constant worries. I truly hope for the opportunity to pursue our happiness again and bring smiles back on our faces. I think you can help my family keep the dream alive by taking another look at this matter.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely yours,

Jimmy Koo, Owner  
Sunny Piedmont Cleaner