



National Gypsum Company  
2001 Rexford Road  
Charlotte, NC 28211

December 17, 2010

To: Our Valued Customers

Re: Articles appearing in *ProPublica* and the *Charlotte Observer* yesterday, Dec. 16:

The claims regarding FGD gypsum and those made by the Brinckus and others as reported in the articles are incorrect and without basis in fact or science. Here are the facts:

- Elemental sulfur is the “bad actor” in defective Chinese drywall. This is not just National Gypsum’s opinion rather, it is the scientific conclusion of nationally and internationally recognized laboratories and the Federal government.
- Gypsum’s chemical composition is calcium sulfate. The sulfate is a stable form of sulfur which chemists will verify does not produce harmful sulfide gas.
- The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), the EPA, and other government agencies and independent, accredited laboratories have thoroughly tested National Gypsum’s products. The testing demonstrates that the offending constituents and properties of contaminated Chinese drywall (namely elemental sulfur and hydrogen sulfide off-gassing) are identifiable and are not found in National Gypsum’s wallboard.
- The government analyses report a “distinct difference” between the composition of samples of Chinese-manufactured drywall and National Gypsum wallboard. The testing shows that National Gypsum’s products do not produce levels of any gasses that could cause the types of problems described in the article and do not contain elemental sulfur. The government also has acknowledged some of the numerous alternative causes of sulfur compounds that the article overlooks, such as well water, sewer gas, soil gas, and other indoor and outdoor contaminants that are completely independent of drywall.

- In addition to the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory which did the tests for the CPSC, Packer Engineering and Columbia Analytical Services also tested our wallboard and found no defects and no elemental sulfur.
- Packer Engineering thoroughly tested the wallboard in the Brincku home and its testing verified that this wallboard did not and would not cause the blackening or corrosion found in the house. Columbia Analytical retested each sample of board in the Brincku home, over 300 pieces, found no elemental sulfur, and reached the same conclusions as Packer.
- When the Packer engineers were at the Brincku home, they inspected all areas of the home, including the attic. The attic contained National Gypsum wallboard, and there was exposed copper wire in that attic from ceiling speakers and an open electrical receptacle. The exposed copper was not corroded and had not blackened and no sulfur odors were detected. The Florida temperatures, particularly in an attic, plus the humidity would definitely have caused a problem, if the wallboard were defective.
- Water in the Ft. Myers and Cape Coral areas of Florida, near the Brincku home is known to contain hydrogen sulfide and related sulfurous compounds that cause blackening and corrosion of copper and other metals. This is very common. The sulfur compounds in Florida water have been demonstrated to off-gas hydrogen sulfide in concentrations that are 1000 times greater than that found in homes with defective Chinese drywall. Public records show that the Brincku home has a well and that the water in it contained sulfurous compounds.
- In regards to National Gypsum's Apollo Beach plant, it has been in operation for 11 years. If the gypsum used to make National Gypsum wallboard contained anything that would release harmful sulfide gas, the plant would have a continual corrosion problem. With all the board stored in the warehouse and the thousands of tons of gypsum stored in the dome, there would be a constant, overpowering sulfurous (rotten egg) odor. Again, add the Florida heat and humidity which would certainly make the plant smell, and neighbors would certainly complain. None of those adverse conditions has ever been present at the Apollo Beach plant.
- In addition, this plant earned a prestigious award in 2005. It was named by *Industry Week* magazine as one of the 10 best manufacturing plants in the United States. Over a series of months there were outside inspections to qualify for this award, plus a ceremony with government dignitaries, customers, local officials, etc. There was no smell. There was no corrosion.

- The Arizona home and the Alabama home mentioned in the article are the subject of two separate suits. In both cases, there was no damage found that could be attributed to sulfurous gas from the drywall. The wallboard was tested and found to contain no defects. It contained no elemental sulfur and did not blacken or corrode copper in the lab tests.

If you would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me – 704-365-7556 or [nhspurlock@nationalgypsum.com](mailto:nhspurlock@nationalgypsum.com). I would also invite you to visit our website on this subject -- [ngc-info.com](http://ngc-info.com). Thank you for your continued support of National Gypsum and its products.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Spurlock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Nancy Spurlock  
Director, Corporate Communications