Reviewer's report

Title: PCB-containing wood floor finish as a likely source of elevated PCBs in residents' blood, household air and dust

Version: 2 Date: 29 November 2007

Reviewer: Donna Vorhees

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Page 4, line 6: Dust concentration units need to be corrected.

I apologize for not noticing the two following items previously, but they involve minimal effort and are important for clarifying the paper.

Page 9, lines 6-8: The authors mention that one resident lived in one of the two homes for less than 6 months. This comment begs the question: how long did the other three residents live in the subject homes? I suggest adding this information, which is relevant to the authors' conclusion on page 11, lines 4-6 (i.e. that serum concentrations are associated with PCB-containing products in the two subject homes).

Page 11, lines 4-6: I understand why the authors' hypothesize that the sources of PCBs in home #1 is the floor finish, but where is the evidence that floor finish is the source in home #2? As the authors discuss on page 3, there are other possible sources of PCBs. Either explain why the source in home #2 is believed to be floor finish, or acknowledge the broader range of possible sources for this home.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.