

BURLINGTON RESOURCES

SAN JUAN DIVISION

January 26, 1999

Denny Foust
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division
1000 Rio Brazos Road
Aztec, NM 87410

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W. L. COLE, DIV.
1000

Re: Report of an Undesirable Event
Riddle B 5 E Final Report

Dear Mr. Foust:

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide you with a "Final Report" for the undesirable event that occurred December 28, 1998, at Riddle B 5 E located in Unit G, Section 23, Township 30N, and Range 10W.

On December 30, 1998 at 7:20:00 AM the E/S Department received a report that a 57-barrel produced water and oil mixture release occurred at the Riddle B 5 E. The cause of the release was attributed to a tank valve freezing and releasing the material within the berm. Upon discovery by the operator there was no recoverable product available to retrieve and return back into the tank. As a result the impacted area was assessed January 6, 1999 and the decision was made to relocate the tank and excavate the impacted soil from beneath the tank. During the assessment a hand auger was employed to core soil directly below the tank valve and take headspace readings at 2' and 4'. From this process, the 2' measurement exhibited readings at 1,320 ppm, while the 4' depth exhibited 1,532 ppm.

Philip Environmental arrived on-site January 7, 1999 and exhumed soil with a backhoe to a depth of 11' directly below where the tank was situated. The PID readings at this depth were 2500 to 2700 ppm, therefore, Philip representatives were instructed to get a track hoe in order to get at a depth of 16'. The following day a track hoe was brought on-site to reach the 16' depth threshold at which the excavation activity was ceased. In order to fill in the excavated area 290 cubic yards of soil were needed to fill in the hole left from the track hoe. BLM was approached for removing soil from the Knickerbocker Stock Pond to be used as fill in the excavation area. However, Bill Liese (BLM) denied the request basing his decision on that there was no access roads to the pond that would result in minimal impact to vegetation. Therefore the City of Aztec was approached to obtain soil from the pit located adjacent to the WWTP. Approval was granted and 290 cubic yd. of soil was removed from this location on 1/20 and 1/21 and the excavation was filled. Regarding the exhumed impacted soil, this material was landfarmed on-site within a bermed containment.

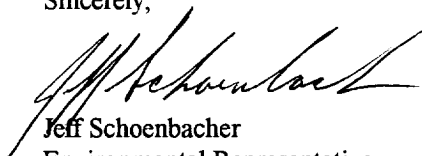
Once the impacted area was filled, Philip was contracted to assess the vertical extent of the soil contamination associated with this release. To accomplish this task, a drill rig and crew were brought on-site January 26, 1999 to penetrate the soil for evaluation. Since the excavation commenced at 16', heated headspace readings were taken at soil depths of 20', 25', and 30'. The following are the heated head space results for each of these depths:

| | | |
|-----|---|----------|
| 20' | - | 859 ppm. |
| 25' | - | 57 ppm. |
| 30' | - | 21 ppm. |

Due to the above heated headspace readings, the drilling activity was ceased and arrangements were made to reinstall the condensate tank components. One sample was obtained at 30' and will be run for TPH (8015) to validate the readings that were encountered at this depth.

Should you have any additional questions concerning this project feel free to contact me at 326-9537. Until that time, I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeff Schoenbacher
Environmental Representative

cc: Bruce Gantner
Gary Osborne
Ed Hasely
Bill Liese (BLM)
Release file #187
Correspondence