

**Western Refining Southwest LLC**

A subsidiary of Marathon Petroleum Corporation

I-40 Exit 39

Jamestown, NM 87347

March 4, 2024

Mr. Ricardo Maestas, Acting Chief  
New Mexico Environment Department, Hazardous Waste Bureau  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Bldg. 1  
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6313

**RE: Response to Approval with Modifications  
Hydrocarbon Seep Interim Measures 2022 Fourth Quarter Status Report  
Western Refining Southwest LLC, Gallup Refinery  
McKinley County, Gallup, New Mexico  
EPA ID# NMD000333211  
HWB-WRG-23-011**

Dear Mr. Maestas:

Please find enclosed the response to comments from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Approval with Modifications letter dated January 17, 2024, for the Hydrocarbon Seep Interim Measures 2022 Fourth Quarter Status Report (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2022 Seep Report). A timeline of the Work Plan is provided below:


- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2022 Seep Report, submitted to NMED on January 26, 2023
- Approval with Modifications, received from NMED dated January 17, 2024

If you have any questions or comments regarding the information contained herein, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Kateri Luka at (714) 713-1218.

**Certification**

*I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction of supervision according to a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.*

Sincerely,  
Western Refining Southwest LLC, Marathon Gallup Refinery

  
Timothy J. Peterkoski  
Director of Environment and Climate Strategy  
Marathon Petroleum Company LP

Enclosure

cc: L. Andress, NMED HWB  
M. Suzuki, NMED HWB  
K. Luka, MPC  
J. Moore, MPC

L. Tsinnajinnie, NMED HWB  
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB  
L. King, EPA Region 6  
H. Jones, Trihydro Corporation

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**RESPONSE TO COMMENTS**

**New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) To Western Refining Southwest LLC (dba Marathon Gallup Refinery [Refinery]) Comment Letter “Approval with Modifications Hydrocarbon Seep Interim Measures 2022 Fourth Quarter Status Report” (January 17, 2024)**

NMED Comment	Refinery Response
<p><b>Comment 1:</b></p> <p>In the <i>Hydrocarbon Seep Area Source Control</i> section, page 1, the Permittee states, "[t]here were approximately 9,200 gallons (gals) of water and no measurable SPH recovered from the Hydrocarbon Seep Area standpipe sumps (S-1- S-6) during October and November 2022. Fluid recovery did not take place during December 2022 due to the groundwater recovery system installation and accessibility to the standpipe sumps, [and t]he Hydrocarbon Seep Area is being added to the groundwater extraction system in the 1st quarter of 2023." Provide reference(s) for NMED's approval letter(s) for the installation of the groundwater recovery system and the Permittee's work plan that describes the detail of the groundwater recovery system in the response letter.</p>	<p><b>Response 1:</b></p> <p>The Refinery does not require an approved work plan for the installation of the groundwater remediation system due to the system being installed as an interim measure used to prevent the migration of the separate phase hydrocarbon (SPH) plume in the groundwater. The installation of the groundwater extraction system and location of sumps was discussed with NMED during a meeting with the Refinery on September 20, 2022. The Refinery has not provided the As-Built's but will include them in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2024 Hydrocarbon Seep Interim Measures Status Report.</p>
<p><b>Comment 2:</b></p> <p>In the <i>Monthly Fluid Levels</i> section, page 2, the Permittee states, "[w]ells MKTF-11 and OW-58A had measurable product for the first time during the 4th quarter. MKTF-11 is upgradient of the Hydrocarbon Seep Area. OW-58A is in the tank farm." During the August 30, 2023 conference call between the Permittee and NMED, detection of Separate Phase Hydrocarbon (SPH) in wells OW-66, OW-55, and OW-58A, located along the northeast boundary of the facility, was evaluated and discussed. The Permittee submitted the <i>North/Eastern Boundary Control Work Plan (OW-58A)</i> on October 11, 2023 to address the issue of SPH expansion. Subsequently, NMED approved the work plan on October 23, 2023.</p> <p>It is possible that SPH has been migrating offsite east of the facility boundary as well due to the observed groundwater flow</p>	<p><b>Response 2:</b></p> <p>The installation of the eastern offsite monitoring well was addressed in page 66, paragraph 1 in the <i>Response to Approval with Modifications, Work Plan 2015 Annual Groundwater Report Comments</i>, dated December 9, 2019. This work plan was approved by NMED in the <i>Approval, Work Plan 2015 Annual Groundwater Report Comments</i>, dated January 15, 2020. The Refinery has no plans to submit a new work plan for the installation of the eastern offsite well.</p> <p>Installation of the well offsite east of the facility boundary was scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, but postponed due to weather and muddy conditions. Installation is now scheduled for the</p>

**New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) To Western Refining Southwest LLC (dba Marathon Gallup Refinery [Refinery]) Comment Letter “Approval with Modifications Hydrocarbon Seep Interim Measures 2022 Fourth Quarter Status Report” (January 17, 2024)**

NMED Comment	Refinery Response
<p>paths. The Permittee previously stated that it was negotiating with the property owner to install offsite monitoring wells. However, NMED has not received an update of the negotiation. Describe the status of the negotiation with the property owner in the response letter. If permission to install monitoring wells was acquired, propose to submit a separate work plan for the installation of the wells in the response letter. Alternatively, the facility boundary east of the Firewater Pond extends approximately 1,000 feet. If the Permittee continues to have an issue of negotiating with the property owner, propose to submit an alternate work plan to install a monitoring well northeast of the Firewater Pond within the facility boundary to assess the extent of the plume in the response letter.</p>	<p>week of March 18<sup>th</sup> to minimize property damage during well installation.</p> <p>Following review of data, the Refinery will determine if additional wells are needed to delineate potential eastern offsite impacts.</p>
Comment 3:	Response 3:
<p>In the <i>Fluid Recovery</i> section, page 2, the Permittee states, "GWM-1 will not be added to the fluid recovery list because it is inaccessible to a vacuum truck." According to Table 2B (Fluid Level Measurements for Non MKTF Wells), page 1 of 23, the thickness of SPH consistently exceeded two (2) feet in well GWM-1 during the fourth quarter of 2022. Discuss other means of SPH recovery from GWM-1 (e.g., manual pumps, bailer) that can be used to remove SPH from well GWM-1 in the upcoming status report. Also, include well GWM-1 as one of the recovery wells in the upcoming status reports, as practicable.</p>	<p>Due to the location of GWM-1 within Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 1, the well is only accessible on foot. Additionally, GWM-1 is a 2 inch well. Bailing of separate phase hydrocarbons (SPH) will yield little to no recovery and pose unnecessary risk to the health and safety of personnel. The Refinery will not add GWM-1 as a recovery well at this time. Following the SWMU 1 excavation, the Refinery will evaluate adding GWM-1 to the groundwater extraction system.</p>

**New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) To Western Refining Southwest LLC (dba Marathon Gallup Refinery [Refinery]) Comment Letter “Approval with Modifications Hydrocarbon Seep Interim Measures 2022 Fourth Quarter Status Report” (January 17, 2024)**

NMED Comment	Refinery Response
<b>Comment 4:</b> In the <i>Borrow Pit Activities</i> section, page 3, the Permittee states, "BPS-1 showed an increase of 4 ft of SPH after construction began on for the groundwater recovery system installation and will continue to be monitored." There appears to be a typographical error in reporting the correct sump in the statement. The designation of the sumps in Table 4 (Summary of Borrow Pit Interim Measure Data) is not consistent with the text of the Report (e.g., S-1 vs. BPS-1). The designation of the sumps and monitoring wells must be consistent throughout the Report and tables. Correct the designations in the upcoming status reports, where applicable. In addition, continue monitoring these sumps and provide a discussion for the changes in thickness of SPH in sumps S-1(4.53 feet increase) and S-2 (1.42 feet increase) in the upcoming status reports.	<b>Response 4:</b> The designations were modified to limit confusion between the Hydrocarbon Seep Area and Borrow Pit sumps beginning in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2023 Hydrocarbon Seep Report. The Refinery now refers to the Borrow Pit sumps as “BPS-“ and the Hydrocarbon Seep Area sumps as “HCS-“. SPH levels most likely increased in the 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2022 in BPS-1 and BPS-2 due to reduced vacuum truck operations because of muddy conditions and the groundwater extraction system installation.

**District I**  
1625 N. French Dr., Hobbs, NM 88240  
Phone:(575) 393-6161 Fax:(575) 393-0720  
**District II**  
811 S. First St., Artesia, NM 88210  
Phone:(575) 748-1283 Fax:(575) 748-9720  
**District III**  
1000 Rio Brazos Rd., Aztec, NM 87410  
Phone:(505) 334-6178 Fax:(505) 334-6170  
**District IV**  
1220 S. St Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505  
Phone:(505) 476-3470 Fax:(505) 476-3462

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources  
Oil Conservation Division  
1220 S. St Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

CONDITIONS

Action 320049

CONDITIONS

Operator: Western Refining Southwest LLC 539 South Main Street Findlay, OH 45840	OGRID: 267595
	Action Number: 320049
	Action Type: [UF-DP] Discharge Permit (DISCHARGE PERMIT)

CONDITIONS

Created By	Condition	Condition Date
joel.stone	Approved for OCD record retention purposes.	8/16/2024