

NM - 53

**GENERAL
CORRESPONDENCE**

YEAR(S):

1990

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS

CADDO PROCESSING COMPANY

OLD:

207 MILAM, SUITE B
SHREVEPORT, LA 71101

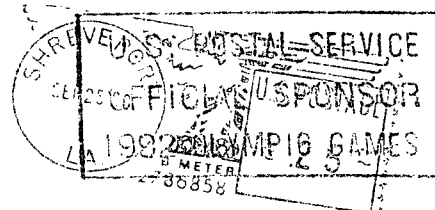
NEW:

416 TRAVIS, SUITE 505
SHREVEPORT, LA 71101

1000371

Re: your letter concerning the "benzene standard"

416 Travis, Suite 505
Shreveport La 71101



Energy Minerals & Natural Resources Dept
Oil Conservation Division
P.O. Box 2088
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2088



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

GARREY CARRUTHERS
GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 2088
STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504
(505) 827-5800

September 19, 1990

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT NO. P-918-402-403

Caddo Processing
207 B Milam
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101

RE: Regulatory Notification, New Federal Requirements for Oil Reclamation Facilities

Dear Sir:

This letter is to advise you of a forthcoming federal requirement that may affect operation of your facility.

As you know, only the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) currently regulates your facility. However, on September 25, 1990, a US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulation directing use of the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) and adding toxicity constituent regulatory levels becomes effective. On that date waste material containing benzene, a natural component of crude oil, will be regulated as federal "hazardous waste" if benzene levels exceed the promulgated level of 500 parts per billion (ppb). Certain waste materials are excluded from this regulation including wastes from crude oil and natural gas exploration and production activities. However, liquid and solid wastes and sludges generated by crude oil and tank bottom reclaimers may not be exempted. Permitting under OCD rules does not necessarily mean your facility is EPA exempt.

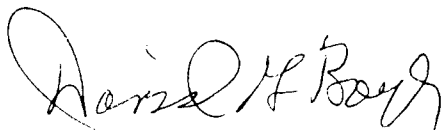
If the waste stream from treating crude oil and tank bottoms by your facility contains benzene concentrations of greater than 500 ppb and if that waste is not exempted under EPA interpretation of the oil and gas exclusion, EPA will require that the waste stream be permitted and handled as hazardous waste. Additionally, if any portion of a common facility handling exempt exploration and production wastes is also considered to be treating, storing, or disposing of hazardous waste, then the entire common facility may be subject to EPA regulations which include provisions for substantial hydrogeologic investigations, corrective actions, and post-closure monitoring. There are civil and criminal penalties for failure to comply with "hazardous waste" regulations.

Therefore the OCD strongly recommends that you contact and review your operations with a private consultant or attorney familiar with this new federal rule prior to September 25 to determine the impact of the new regulation at your facility, and for advice as to technical permitting requirements and your potential liability.

Currently, the State of New Mexico is taking action to notify President Bush, the USEPA, and the Department of Energy of the impact of this new rule, and is requesting implementation be delayed for at least six months while the issue is reexamined. However, the outcome of this appeal is far from certain. Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the letter to President Bush. You may also wish to contact members of the New Mexico Congressional delegation regarding this important matter.

If you have any questions you are urged to contact either myself at (505) 827-5812 or Roger Anderson of this office at 827-5884.

Sincerely,



David G. Boyer, Hydrogeologist
Environmental Bureau Chief

DGB/sl

Enclosure

cc: NMOCD District Office