

3R - 298

**GENERAL
CORRESPONDENCE**

YEAR(S):

1990

PO BOX 8900
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84108-0900
801-583-8800

'90 FEB 12 AM 9 38

February 8, 1990

Mr. Dave Boyer
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division
P. O. Box 2088
Land Office Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Mr. Boyer,

Per our 2/7 phone conversation, Northwest Pipeline is reporting a mercury spill within the meter building on the San Juan 27-4 #85 wellhead. This well is located in the NE1/4, SE1/4, Section 27, T27N, R4W, Rio Arriba County.

The spill occurred on January*22, 1990 when a broken valve body allowed mercury to be ejected under pressure from the meter chamber. Approximately 8 lbs of mercury was lost to the walls of the building and gravel floor. Cleanup procedures included washing the walls and equipment of the building with a solution of water and HgX and removing contaminated soils and gravel from the floor of the building. All contaminated material will be disposed of at USPCI's Grassy Mountain Hazardous Waste Disposal Site west of Salt Lake City. Appropriate personal protective measures are being implemented including the use of respirators, protective clothing, and mercury vapor monitoring.

Since the quantity of mercury spilled was in excess of the reportable quantity of 1 lb, the National Response Center and the landowner, Carson National Forest, were also notified.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,



Lori Komatar, Manager
Environmental Services