

AP - 26

CASE # 13192

**GENERAL
CORRESPONDENCE**

YEAR(S):

**COTTON
BLEDSOE
TIGHE &
DAWSON, PC**
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October 26, 2005

Wayne Price, Pet. Engr. Spec.
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and
Natural Resources Department
1220 S. St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

RECEIVED
OCT 27 2005
OIL CONSERVATION
DIVISION

Re: **Case 13,142, Application of New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, through the Environment Bureau Chief for an Order Requiring Maralo, LLC to Remediate Hydrocarbon Contamination at an Abandoned Well and Battery Site, Lea County, New Mexico (do novo)**

Dear Mr. Price:

Please accept this letter as a response of your letter of October 20, 2005 directed to William G. Soloman.

We apologize for the delay in responding to your inquiries. During that time period, Rick G. Strange, of our firm, was appointed to the Eleventh District Court of Appeals in Eastland, Texas. Consequently, he is no longer with this firm.

Please find attached a Remediation Site Report prepared by Allstate Environmental Services, LLC. We have previously forwarded remediation plans to you for approval. Please also find copies of the remediation plan correspondence attached hereto for your convenience.

We trust the information attached hereto resolves some of the confusion surrounding the remediation of the Anthony Ranch. Additionally, for your files, Maralo counsel that has previously been dealing directly with the OCD is Mr. W. Thomas Kellahin of Kellahin and Kellahin, 117 North Guadalupe, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501. However, please feel free to give me a call at your convenience if you wish to discuss the matters contained herein further. Thank you for your professional courtesies.

Very truly yours,

COTTON, BLEDSOE, TIGHE & DAWSON

David W. Lauritzen

DWL:rm



ALLSTATE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, LLC



P.O BOX 11322
MIDLAND, TEXAS 79702
OFFICE: (432) 682-3547
FAX: (432) 682-4182

RECEIVED
OIL CONSERVATION
DIVISION

Maralo, LLC Jay Anthony

Remediation Site



ALLSTATE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, LLC



P.O BOX 11322
MIDLAND, TEXAS 79702
OFFICE: (432) 682-3547
FAX: (432) 682-4182

April 18, 2005

W. Thomas Kellahin
Kellahin and Kellahin
P.O. Box 3365 (87504)
117 North Guadalupe
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Subject: Assessment Information for Hydrocarbon Contamination at the site of the Maralo, LLC Humble State Well No. 3 located in Section 36, Township 25 South, Range 36 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico.

Dear Mr. Kellahin,

Mr. Rob Elam, site supervisor for Allstate Environmental Services, LLC of Midland, Texas, along with a crew from White Drilling Company of Clyde, Texas, drilled a series of 16 holes for core samples on Wednesday and Thursday the 6th and 7th of April.

Samples were taken at 5 ft. intervals using a split spoon device attached to the drill stem of the drilling rig. The depth drilled at each sample point was determined by soil vapor analysis through use of a Photo Ionization Detector (PID) which was also used for determination of BTEX content. Chloride and total petroleum hydrocarbon samples were taken and placed in 4 oz. jars and packed in ice as a preservative for transport to Environmental Labs of Texas in Odessa, Tx.

Attached are a schematic (not to scale) of the site and a chart indicating readings accumulated at that time. Also enclosed is the lab report for chloride and hydrocarbon samples.

Please feel free to contact me at 432-682-3547 (Office) or 432-559-8079 (cell) with any concerns or questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Rob Elam
Allstate Environmental Services

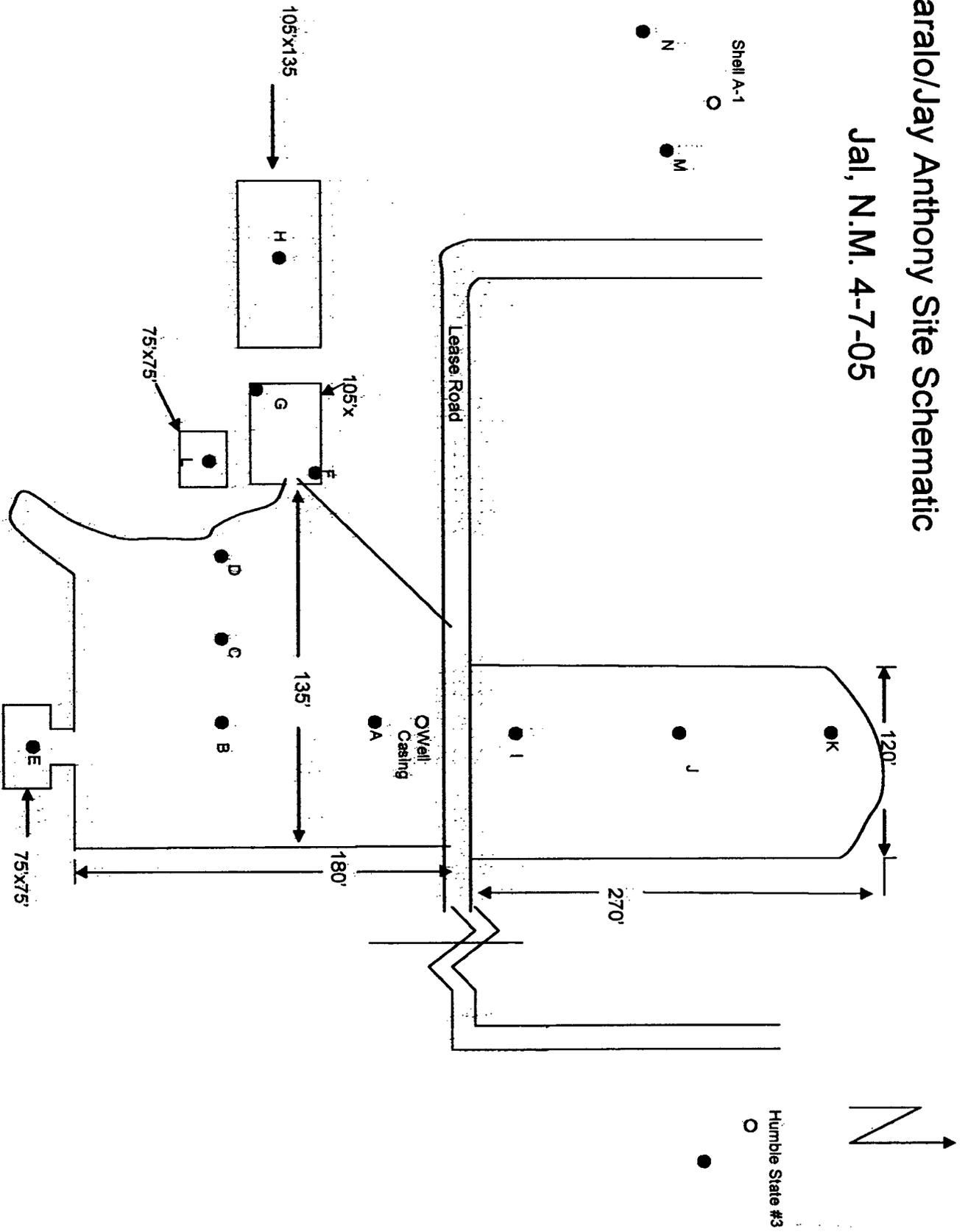
cc: Rick Strange - Cotton, Bledsoe, Tighe & Dawson, P.C.

An Environmental Company

SOLIDIFICATION, BIOREMEDIATION, LAND FARMING, SOIL SHREDDING

Maralo/Jay Anthony Site Schematic

Jal, N.M. 4-7-05



MARALO-JAY ANTHONY SITE

Location and Sample Data 4-7 & 8- 2005

GPS	Depth	PID	TPH	CI	GPS	Depth	PID	TPH	CI
Sample Pt. A N32 05'25.2" W103 12'52.2"	5 ft.	0.01			Sample Pt. B N32 05'24.5" W103 12'52.1"	5 ft.	0.01		
	10 ft.	332				10 ft.	332		
	15 ft.	356				15 ft.	356		
	20 ft.	394	146	24.6		20 ft.	394		
	25 ft.	189				25 ft.	189		
30 ft.	226			30 ft.	226				
35 ft.	31.1			35 ft.	31				
40 ft.	17.7			40 ft.	17.7	155	45.1		

GPS	Depth	PID	TPH	CI	GPS	Depth	PID	TPH	CI
Sample Pt. C N32 05'24.4" W103 12'52.9"	5 ft.	230			Sample Pt. D N32 05'24.4" W103 12'53.6"	5 ft.	2.7		
	10 ft.	304				10 ft.	1.7		
	15 ft.	329				15 ft.	21.8		
	20 ft.	504				20 ft.	25.7		
	25 ft.	312				25 ft.	11.2		
	30 ft.	977				30 ft.	2.2 ND		16.1
	35 ft.	502							
	40 ft.	223							
	45 ft.	67							
	50 ft.	28	419	40.1					

GPS	Depth	PID	TPH	CI	GPS	Depth	PID	TPH	CI
Sample Pt. E N32 05'23.1" W103 12'51.3"	5 ft.	38.4			Sample Pt. F N32 05'24.9" W103 12'54.8"	5 ft.	458		
	10 ft.	313				10 ft.	482		
	15 ft.	314				15 ft.	284		
	20 ft.	455				20 ft.	222		
	25 ft.	288				25 ft.	27.3		
	30 ft.	357				30 ft.	8.3	184	93.9
	35 ft.	350							
	40 ft.	405							
	45 ft.	56.6							
	50 ft.	31.7	505	52.7					

GPS				GPS					
Sample Pt.	Depth	PID	TPH	CI	Sample Pt.	Depth	PID	TPH	CI
Sample Pt. G	N32 05'24.5" W103 12'55.2"	5 ft.	308		Sample Pt. H	N32 05'24.7" W103 12'56.4"	5 ft.	0.1	
	10 ft.	312		10 ft.		0.1			
	15 ft.	310		15 ft.		2.8			
	20 ft.	286		20 ft.		0.1			
	25 ft.	41.4		25 ft.		0.1			
	30 ft.	21	159	180	30 ft.	0.1	ND		38

Sample Pt. I	N32 05'26.6" W103 12'52.4"	5 ft.	135		Sample Pt. J	N32 05'27.6" W103 12'52.4"	5 ft.	307	
	10 ft.	661		10 ft.		519			
	15 ft.	944		15 ft.		525			
	20 ft.	769		20 ft.		622			
	25 ft.	1120		25 ft.		292			
	30 ft.	837		30 ft.		271			
	35 ft.	84.4		35 ft.		231			
	40 ft.	99.3		40 ft.		326			
	45 ft.	33.3		45 ft.		329			
	50 ft.	92.9		50 ft.		201			
	55 ft.	26.1		55 ft.		269			
60 ft.	29.5	ND	60 ft.	307					
			65 ft.	84.3					
			70 ft.	39.1					
					173	209			

Sample Pt. K	N32 05'28.2" W103 12'52.3"	5 ft.	291		Sample Pt. L	N32 05'23.8" W103 12'55.1"	5 ft.	0.6	
	10 ft.	426		10 ft.		0.1			
	15 ft.	311		15 ft.		2.2			
	20 ft.	267		20 ft.		0.1			
	25 ft.	268		25 ft.		0.1			
	30 ft.	56.7		30 ft.		0.1	ND		
	35 ft.	24.4					106		
	40 ft.	33.6	215	220					

Sample Pt. M	N32 05'32.4" W103 13'00.0"	5 ft.	23.5		Sample Pt. N	N32 05'32.1" W103 13'00.4"	5 ft.	0.1	
	10 ft.	3.3		10 ft.		0.6			
	15 ft.	2.5		15 ft.		9.1			
	20 ft.	0.1		20 ft.		4.7			
	25 ft.	0.2		25 ft.		3	ND		
					899	467			

Sample Pt. O	N32 05'32.4" W103 12'45.4"	5 ft.	0.1	
	10 ft.	0.1		
	15 ft.	0.1		
	20 ft.	0.1	662	

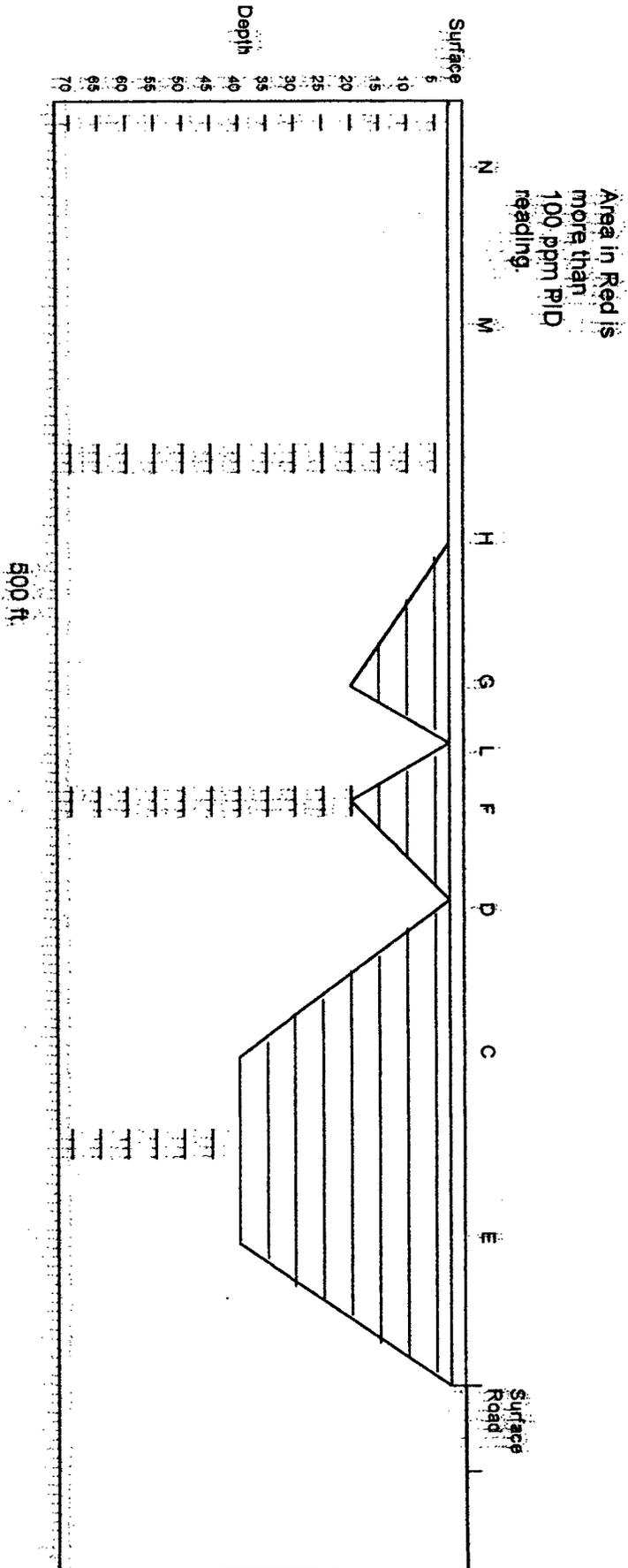
Sample Pt. Well

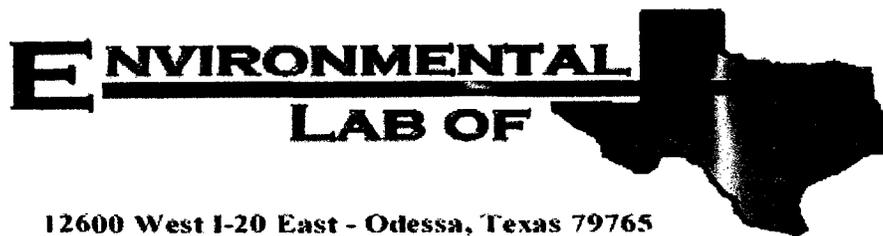
N32 05'25.5" W103 12'52.1"

Maralo/Jay Anthony Site Schematic

Jal, N.M. 4-7-05

Looking Horizontally South to North





12600 West I-20 East - Odessa, Texas 79765

Analytical Report

Prepared for:

Rob Elam

Allstate Environmental Services, LLC

P.O. Box 11322

Midland, TX 79702

Project: Anthony-Maralo

Project Number: None Given

Location: Anthony-Maralo

Lab Order Number: 5D08008

Report Date: 04/15/05

Allstate Environmental Services, LLC
P.O. Box 11322
Midland TX, 79702

Project: Anthony-Maralo
Project Number: None Given
Project Manager: Rob Elam

Fax: (432) 682-4182

Reported:
04/15/05 07:34

ANALYTICAL REPORT FOR SAMPLES

Sample ID	Laboratory ID	Matrix	Date Sampled	Date Received
JA-A-25'	5D08008-01	Soil	04/06/05 07:20	04/08/05 13:15
JA-B-40'	5D08008-02	Soil	04/06/05 07:40	04/08/05 13:15
JA-C-50	5D08008-03	Soil	04/06/05 08:00	04/08/05 13:15
JA-D-30	5D08008-04	Soil	04/06/05 08:20	04/08/05 13:15
JA-H-30	5D08008-05	Soil	04/06/05 09:40	04/08/05 13:15
JA-G-30	5D08008-06	Soil	04/06/05 09:20	04/08/05 13:15
JA-F-30	5D08008-07	Soil	04/06/05 09:00	04/08/05 13:15
JA-E-50	5D08008-08	Soil	04/06/05 08:40	04/08/05 13:15
JA-I-60	5D08008-09	Soil	04/06/05 07:00	04/08/05 13:15
JA-J-70	5D08008-10	Soil	04/07/05 07:00	04/08/05 13:15
JA-K-40	5D08008-11	Soil	04/07/05 07:20	04/08/05 13:15
JA-L-30	5D08008-12	Soil	04/07/05 07:40	04/08/05 13:15
JA-B-30	5D08008-13	Soil	04/07/05 08:00	04/08/05 13:15
Humble State #3 0-20	5D08008-14	Soil	04/07/05 11:00	04/08/05 13:15
Shell A #1- N-25	5D08008-15	Soil	04/07/05 10:20	04/08/05 13:15
Shell A #1- M-25	5D08008-16	Soil	04/07/05 10:00	04/08/05 13:15
JA-J-60	5D08008-17	Soil	04/07/05 10:40	04/08/05 13:15
JA-I-30	5D08008-18	Soil	04/07/05 11:20	04/08/05 13:15
JA-E-40	5D08008-19	Soil	04/07/05 11:40	04/08/05 13:15

Allstate Environmental Services, LLC
P.O. Box 11322
Midland TX, 79702

Project: Anthony-Maralo
Project Number: None Given
Project Manager: Rob Elam

Fax: (432) 682-4182

Reported:
04/15/05 07:34

Organics by GC
Environmental Lab of Texas

Analyte	Result	Reporting Limit	Units	Dilution	Batch	Prepared	Analyzed	Method	Notes
JA-A-25' (SD08008-01) Soil									
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	ND	10.0	mg/kg dry	1	ED50813	04/08/05	04/10/05	EPA 8015M	
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	146	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	146	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane		98.4 %	70-130	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane		105 %	70-130	"	"	"	"	"	
JA-B-40' (SD08008-02) Soil									
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	J [7.13]	10.0	mg/kg dry	1	ED50813	04/08/05	04/11/05	EPA 8015M	J
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	155	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	155	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane		101 %	70-130	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane		109 %	70-130	"	"	"	"	"	
JA-C-50 (SD08008-03) Soil									
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	21.7	10.0	mg/kg dry	1	ED50813	04/08/05	04/11/05	EPA 8015M	
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	397	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	419	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane		103 %	70-130	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane		108 %	70-130	"	"	"	"	"	
JA-D-30 (SD08008-04) Soil									
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	ND	10.0	mg/kg dry	1	ED50813	04/08/05	04/11/05	EPA 8015M	
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	ND	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	ND	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane		95.2 %	70-130	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane		98.8 %	70-130	"	"	"	"	"	
JA-H-30 (SD08008-05) Soil									
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	ND	10.0	mg/kg dry	1	ED50813	04/08/05	04/11/05	EPA 8015M	
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	ND	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	ND	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane		95.2 %	70-130	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane		99.2 %	70-130	"	"	"	"	"	

Environmental Lab of Texas

The results in this report apply to the samples analyzed in accordance with the samples received in the laboratory. This analytical report must be reproduced in its entirety, with written approval of Environmental Lab of Texas.

Page 2 of 12

Allstate Environmental Services, LLC
P.O. Box 11322
Midland TX, 79702

Project: Anthony-Maralo
Project Number: None Given
Project Manager: Rob Elam

Fax: (432) 682-4182
Reported:
04/15/05 07:34

Organics by GC
Environmental Lab of Texas

Analyte	Result	Reporting Limit	Units	Dilution	Batch	Prepared	Analyzed	Method	Notes
JA-G-30 (5D08008-06) Soil									
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	ND	10.0	mg/kg dry	1	ED50813	04/08/05	04/11/05	EPA 8015M	
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	159	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	159	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane		91.6 %	70-130		"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane		96.4 %	70-130		"	"	"	"	
JA-F-30 (5D08008-07) Soil									
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	J [8.53]	10.0	mg/kg dry	1	ED50813	04/08/05	04/11/05	EPA 8015M	J
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	184	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	184	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane		92.4 %	70-130		"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane		95.2 %	70-130		"	"	"	"	
JA-E-50 (5D08008-08) Soil									
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	32.5	10.0	mg/kg dry	1	ED50813	04/08/05	04/11/05	EPA 8015M	
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	472	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	505	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane		90.8 %	70-130		"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane		92.8 %	70-130		"	"	"	"	
JA-I-60 (5D08008-09) Soil									
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	ND	10.0	mg/kg dry	1	ED50813	04/08/05	04/11/05	EPA 8015M	
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	ND	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	ND	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane		120 %	70-130		"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane		121 %	70-130		"	"	"	"	
JA-J-70 (5D08008-10) Soil									
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	24.5	10.0	mg/kg dry	1	ED50813	04/08/05	04/11/05	EPA 8015M	
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	148	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	173	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane		101 %	70-130		"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane		105 %	70-130		"	"	"	"	

Environmental Lab of Texas

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Allstate Environmental Services, LLC
P.O. Box 11322
Midland TX, 79702

Project: Anthony-Maralo
Project Number: None Given
Project Manager: Rob Elam

Fax: (432) 682-4182

Reported:
04/15/05 07:34

Organics by GC
Environmental Lab of Texas

Analyte	Result	Reporting Limit	Units	Dilution	Batch	Prepared	Analyzed	Method	Notes
JA-K-40 (5D08008-11) Soil									
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	15.7	10.0	mg/kg dry	1	ED50813	04/08/05	04/11/05	EPA 8015M	
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	199	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	215	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane		88.8 %	70-130		"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane		91.8 %	70-130		"	"	"	"	
JA-L-30 (5D08008-12) Soil									
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	ND	10.0	mg/kg dry	1	ED50813	04/08/05	04/11/05	EPA 8015M	
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	ND	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	ND	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane		86.0 %	70-130		"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane		89.8 %	70-130		"	"	"	"	
JA-B-30 (5D08008-13) Soil									
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	18.0	10.0	mg/kg dry	1	ED50813	04/08/05	04/11/05	EPA 8015M	
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	85.5	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	104	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane		94.2 %	70-130		"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane		95.4 %	70-130		"	"	"	"	
Humble State #3 0-20 (5D08008-14) Soil									
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	ND	10.0	mg/kg dry	1	ED50813	04/08/05	04/11/05	EPA 8015M	
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	ND	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	ND	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane		84.4 %	70-130		"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane		87.4 %	70-130		"	"	"	"	
Shell A #1- N-25 (5D08008-15) Soil									
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	ND	10.0	mg/kg dry	1	ED50813	04/08/05	04/11/05	EPA 8015M	
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	ND	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	ND	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane		96.0 %	70-130		"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane		98.6 %	70-130		"	"	"	"	

Environmental Lab of Texas

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Allstate Environmental Services, LLC
P.O. Box 11322
Midland TX, 79702

Project: Anthony-Maralo
Project Number: None Given
Project Manager: Rob Elam

Fax: (432) 682-4182

Reported:
04/15/05 07:34

**Organics by GC
Environmental Lab of Texas**

Analyte	Result	Reporting Limit	Units	Dilution	Batch	Prepared	Analyzed	Method	Notes
Shell A #1- M-25 (SD08008-16) Soil									
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	ND	10.0	mg/kg dry	1	ED50813	04/08/05	04/11/05	EPA 8015M	
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	ND	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	ND	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane		86.0 %		70-130	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane		86.8 %		70-130	"	"	"	"	
JA-J-60 (SD08008-17) Soil									
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	439	10.0	mg/kg dry	1	ED50813	04/08/05	04/11/05	EPA 8015M	
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	3160	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	3600	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane		96.2 %		70-130	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane		109 %		70-130	"	"	"	"	
JA-I-30 (SD08008-18) Soil									
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	139	10.0	mg/kg dry	1	ED50813	04/08/05	04/11/05	EPA 8015M	
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	424	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	563	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane		78.4 %		70-130	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane		87.4 %		70-130	"	"	"	"	
JA-E-40 (SD08008-19) Soil									
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	1060	10.0	mg/kg dry	1	ED50815	04/08/05	04/11/05	EPA 8015M	
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	6230	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	7290	10.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane		93.4 %		70-130	"	"	"	"	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane		102 %		70-130	"	"	"	"	

Allstate Environmental Services, LLC
 P.O. Box 11322
 Midland TX, 79702

Project: Anthony-Maralo
 Project Number: None Given
 Project Manager: Rob Elam

Fax: (432) 682-4182
 Reported:
 04/15/05 07:34

**General Chemistry Parameters by EPA / Standard Methods
 Environmental Lab of Texas**

Analyte	Result	Reporting Limit	Units	Dilution	Batch	Prepared	Analyzed	Method	Notes
JA-A-25' (SD08008-01) Soil									
Chloride	24.6	5.00	mg/kg	10	ED51212	04/11/05	04/11/05	EPA 300.0	
% Moisture	10.7	0.1	%	1	ED51107	04/08/05	04/11/05	% calculation	
JA-B-40' (SD08008-02) Soil									
Chloride	45.1	5.00	mg/kg	10	ED51212	04/11/05	04/11/05	EPA 300.0	
% Moisture	8.3	0.1	%	1	ED51107	04/08/05	04/11/05	% calculation	
JA-C-50 (SD08008-03) Soil									
Chloride	40.1	5.00	mg/kg	10	ED51212	04/11/05	04/11/05	EPA 300.0	
% Moisture	7.2	0.1	%	1	ED51107	04/08/05	04/11/05	% calculation	
JA-D-30 (SD08008-04) Soil									
Chloride	16.1	5.00	mg/kg	10	ED51212	04/11/05	04/11/05	EPA 300.0	
% Moisture	5.5	0.1	%	1	ED51107	04/08/05	04/11/05	% calculation	
JA-H-30 (SD08008-05) Soil									
Chloride	37.7	10.0	mg/kg	20	ED51212	04/11/05	04/11/05	EPA 300.0	
% Moisture	8.1	0.1	%	1	ED51107	04/08/05	04/11/05	% calculation	
JA-G-30 (SD08008-06) Soil									
Chloride	180	10.0	mg/kg	20	ED51212	04/11/05	04/11/05	EPA 300.0	
% Moisture	9.1	0.1	%	1	ED51107	04/08/05	04/11/05	% calculation	
JA-F-30 (SD08008-07) Soil									
Chloride	93.9	10.0	mg/kg	20	ED51212	04/11/05	04/11/05	EPA 300.0	
% Moisture	8.9	0.1	%	1	ED51107	04/08/05	04/11/05	% calculation	
JA-E-50 (SD08008-08) Soil									
Chloride	52.7	5.00	mg/kg	10	ED51212	04/11/05	04/11/05	EPA 300.0	
% Moisture	6.8	0.1	%	1	ED51107	04/08/05	04/11/05	% calculation	

Environmental Lab of Texas

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Allstate Environmental Services, LLC
P.O. Box 11322
Midland TX, 79702

Project: Anthony-Maralo
Project Number: None Given
Project Manager: Rob Elam

Fax: (432) 682-4182

Reported:
04/15/05 07:34

**General Chemistry Parameters by EPA / Standard Methods
Environmental Lab of Texas**

Analyte	Result	Reporting Limit	Units	Dilution	Batch	Prepared	Analyzed	Method	Notes
JA-I-60 (SD08008-09) Soil									
Chloride	42.9	5.00	mg/kg	10	ED51212	04/11/05	04/11/05	EPA 300.0	
% Moisture	7.4	0.1	%	1	ED51107	04/08/05	04/11/05	% calculation	
JA-J-70 (SD08008-10) Soil									
Chloride	209	5.00	mg/kg	10	ED51212	04/11/05	04/11/05	EPA 300.0	
% Moisture	7.4	0.1	%	1	ED51107	04/08/05	04/11/05	% calculation	
JA-K-40 (SD08008-11) Soil									
Chloride	220	10.0	mg/kg	20	ED51212	04/11/05	04/11/05	EPA 300.0	
% Moisture	6.4	0.1	%	1	ED51107	04/08/05	04/11/05	% calculation	
JA-L-30 (SD08008-12) Soil									
Chloride	106	25.0	mg/kg	50	ED51212	04/11/05	04/11/05	EPA 300.0	
% Moisture	8.0	0.1	%	1	ED51107	04/08/05	04/11/05	% calculation	
JA-B-30 (SD08008-13) Soil									
Chloride	35.5	5.00	mg/kg	10	ED51212	04/11/05	04/11/05	EPA 300.0	
% Moisture	11.5	0.1	%	1	ED51107	04/08/05	04/11/05	% calculation	
Humble State #3 0-20 (SD08008-14) Soil									
Chloride	467	20.0	mg/kg	40	ED51212	04/11/05	04/11/05	EPA 300.0	
% Moisture	3.2	0.1	%	1	ED51107	04/08/05	04/11/05	% calculation	
Shell A #1- N-25 (SD08008-15) Soil									
Chloride	662	50.0	mg/kg	100	ED51212	04/11/05	04/11/05	EPA 300.0	
% Moisture	8.8	0.1	%	1	ED51107	04/08/05	04/11/05	% calculation	
Shell A #1- M-25 (SD08008-16) Soil									
Chloride	899	50.0	mg/kg	100	ED51212	04/11/05	04/11/05	EPA 300.0	
% Moisture	10.5	0.1	%	1	ED51107	04/08/05	04/11/05	% calculation	

Environmental Lab of Texas

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Allstate Environmental Services, LLC
P.O. Box 11322
Midland TX, 79702

Project: Anthony-Maralo
Project Number: None Given
Project Manager: Rob Elam

Fax: (432) 682-4182
Reported:
04/15/05 07:34

**General Chemistry Parameters by EPA / Standard Methods
Environmental Lab of Texas**

Analyte	Result	Reporting Limit	Units	Dilution	Batch	Prepared	Analyzed	Method	Notes
JA-J-60 (SD08008-17) Soil									
Chloride	175	5.00	mg/kg	10	ED51212	04/11/05	04/11/05	EPA 300.0	
% Moisture	7.7	0.1	%	1	ED51107	04/08/05	04/11/05	% calculation	
JA-I-30 (SD08008-18) Soil									
Chloride	33.2	5.00	mg/kg	10	ED51212	04/11/05	04/11/05	EPA 300.0	
% Moisture	8.6	0.1	%	1	ED51107	04/08/05	04/11/05	% calculation	
JA-E-40 (SD08008-19) Soil									
Chloride	65.3	5.00	mg/kg	10	ED51212	04/11/05	04/11/05	EPA 300.0	
% Moisture	6.3	0.1	%	1	ED51107	04/08/05	04/11/05	% calculation	

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Page 8 of 12

Allstate Environmental Services, LLC
P.O. Box 11322
Midland TX, 79702

Project: Anthony-Maralo
Project Number: None Given
Project Manager: Rob Elam

Fax: (432) 682-4182
Reported:
04/15/05 07:34

**Organics by GC - Quality Control
Environmental Lab of Texas**

Analyte	Result	Reporting Limit	Units	Spike Level	Source Result	%REC	%REC Limits	RPD	RPD Limit	Notes
Batch ED50813 - Solvent Extraction (GC)										
Blank (ED50813-BLK1) Prepared: 04/08/05 Analyzed: 04/10/05										
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	ND	10.0	mg/kg wet							
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	ND	10.0	"							
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	ND	10.0	"							
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane	36.4		mg/kg	50.0		72.8	70-130			
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane	36.1		"	50.0		72.2	70-130			
LCS (ED50813-BS1) Prepared: 04/08/05 Analyzed: 04/10/05										
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	494	10.0	mg/kg wet	500		98.8	75-125			
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	483	10.0	"	500		96.6	75-125			
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	977	10.0	"	1000		97.7	75-125			
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane	38.6		mg/kg	50.0		77.2	70-130			
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane	38.2		"	50.0		76.4	70-130			
Calibration Check (ED50813-CCV1) Prepared: 04/08/05 Analyzed: 04/10/05										
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	497		mg/kg	500		99.4	80-120			
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	511		"	500		102	80-120			
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	1010		"	1000		101	80-120			
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane	58.6		"	50.0		117	70-130			
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane	59.9		"	50.0		120	70-130			
Matrix Spike (ED50813-MS1) Source: 5D08008-01 Prepared: 04/08/05 Analyzed: 04/11/05										
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	588	10.0	mg/kg dry	560	ND	105	75-125			
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	734	10.0	"	560	146	105	75-125			
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	1320	10.0	"	1120	146	105	75-125			
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane	56.5		mg/kg	50.0		113	70-130			
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane	60.3		"	50.0		121	70-130			
Matrix Spike Dup (ED50813-MSD1) Source: 5D08008-01 Prepared: 04/08/05 Analyzed: 04/11/05										
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	587	10.0	mg/kg dry	560	ND	105	75-125	0.170	20	
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	692	10.0	"	560	146	97.5	75-125	5.89	20	
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	1280	10.0	"	1120	146	101	75-125	3.08	20	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane	55.2		mg/kg	50.0		110	70-130			
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane	57.9		"	50.0		116	70-130			

Environmental Lab of Texas

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Allstate Environmental Services, LLC
P.O. Box 11322
Midland TX, 79702

Project: Anthony-Maralo
Project Number: None Given
Project Manager: Rob Elam

Fax: (432) 682-4182

Reported:
04/15/05 07:34

Organics by GC - Quality Control
Environmental Lab of Texas

Analyte	Result	Reporting Limit	Units	Spike Level	Source Result	%REC	%REC Limits	RPD	RPD Limit	Notes
Batch ED50815 - Solvent Extraction (GC)										
Blank (ED50815-BLK1)					Prepared: 04/08/05 Analyzed: 04/11/05					
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	ND	10.0	mg/kg wet							
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	ND	10.0	"							
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	ND	10.0	"							
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane	38.9		mg/kg	50.0		77.8	70-130			
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane	39.2		"	50.0		78.4	70-130			
LCS (ED50815-BS1)					Prepared: 04/08/05 Analyzed: 04/11/05					
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	460	10.0	mg/kg wet	500		92.0	75-125			
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	449	10.0	"	500		89.8	75-125			
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	909	10.0	"	1000		90.9	75-125			
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane	39.7		mg/kg	50.0		79.4	70-130			
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane	35.8		"	50.0		71.6	70-130			
Calibration Check (ED50815-CCV1)					Prepared: 04/08/05 Analyzed: 04/11/05					
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	516		mg/kg	500		103	80-120			
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	515		"	500		103	80-120			
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	1030		"	1000		103	80-120			
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane	63.8		"	50.0		128	70-130			
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane	63.9		"	50.0		128	70-130			
Matrix Spike (ED50815-MS1)					Source: 5D08010-01 Prepared: 04/08/05 Analyzed: 04/11/05					
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	640	10.0	mg/kg dry	703	ND	91.0	75-125			
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	749	10.0	"	703	ND	107	75-125			
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	1390	10.0	"	1410	ND	98.6	75-125			
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane	50.7		mg/kg	50.0		101	70-130			
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane	44.5		"	50.0		89.0	70-130			
Matrix Spike Dup (ED50815-MSD1)					Source: 5D08010-01 Prepared: 04/08/05 Analyzed: 04/11/05					
Gasoline Range Organics C6-C12	638	10.0	mg/kg dry	703	ND	90.8	75-125	0.313	20	
Diesel Range Organics >C12-C35	734	10.0	"	703	ND	104	75-125	2.02	20	
Total Hydrocarbon C6-C35	1370	10.0	"	1410	ND	97.2	75-125	1.45	20	
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctane	50.7		mg/kg	50.0		101	70-130			
Surrogate: 1-Chlorooctadecane	44.5		"	50.0		89.0	70-130			

Environmental Lab of Texas

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Allstate Environmental Services, LLC
P.O. Box 11322
Midland TX, 79702

Project: Anthony-Maralo
Project Number: None Given
Project Manager: Rob Elam

Fax: (432) 682-4182

Reported:
04/15/05 07:34

General Chemistry Parameters by EPA / Standard Methods - Quality Control
Environmental Lab of Texas

Analyte	Result	Reporting Limit	Units	Spike Level	Source Result	%REC	%REC Limits	RPD	RPD Limit	Notes
Batch ED51107 - General Preparation (Prep)										
Blank (ED51107-BLK1)					Prepared: 04/08/05 Analyzed: 04/11/05					
% Moisture	ND	0.1	%							
Duplicate (ED51107-DUP1)					Source: 5D08006-01 Prepared: 04/08/05 Analyzed: 04/11/05					
% Moisture	6.0	0.1	%		6.9			14.0	20	
Batch ED51212 - Water Extraction										
Blank (ED51212-BLK1)					Prepared & Analyzed: 04/11/05					
Chloride	ND	0.500	mg/kg							
LCS (ED51212-BS1)					Prepared & Analyzed: 04/11/05					
Chloride	10.4		mg/L	10.0		104	80-120			
Calibration Check (ED51212-CCV1)					Prepared & Analyzed: 04/11/05					
Chloride	10.8		mg/L	10.0		108	80-120			
Duplicate (ED51212-DUP1)					Source: 5D08008-11 Prepared & Analyzed: 04/11/05					
Chloride	238	10.0	mg/kg		220			7.86	20	

Environmental Lab of Texas

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Page 11 of 12

Allstate Environmental Services, LLC
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Midland TX, 79702

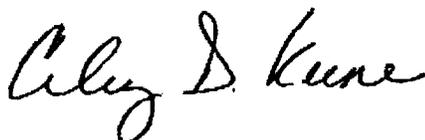
Project: Anthony-Maralo
Project Number: None Given
Project Manager: Rob Elam

Fax: (432) 682-4182
Reported:
04/15/05 07:34

Notes and Definitions

J Detected but below the Reporting Limit; therefore, result is an estimated concentration (CLP J-Flag).
DET Analyte DETECTED
ND Analyte NOT DETECTED at or above the reporting limit
NR Not Reported
dry Sample results reported on a dry weight basis
RPD Relative Percent Difference
LCS Laboratory Control Spike
MS Matrix Spike
Dup Duplicate

Report Approved By: _____



Date: 4/15/2005

Raland K. Tuttle, Lab Manager
Caley D. Keene, Lab Director, Org. Tech Director
Peggy Allen, QA Officer

Jeanne Mc Murrey, Inorg. Tech Director
James L. Hawkins, Chemist/Geologist
Sandra Sanchez, Lab Tech.

This material is intended only for the use of the individual (s) or entity to whom it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged and confidential.

If you have received this material in error, please notify us immediately at 432-563-1800.

Environmental Lab of Texas

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Page 12 of 12

Environmental Lab of Texas Variance / Corrective Action Report – Sample Log-In

Client: Allstate Environmental

Date/Time: 04-08-05 @ 1315

Order #: 5DO8008

Initials: JMM

Sample Receipt Checklist

Temperature of container /cooler?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No	4.0	C
Shipping container /cooler in good condition?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No		
Custody Seals intact on shipping container/cooler?	Yes	No	Not present	
Custody Seals intact on sample bottles?	Yes	No	Not present	
Chain of custody present?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No		
Sample Instructions complete on Chain of Custody?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No		
Chain of Custody signed when relinquished and received?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No		
Chain of custody agrees with sample label(s)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No		
Container labels legible and intact?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No		
Sample Matrix and properties same as on chain of custody?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No		
Samples in proper container/bottle?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No		
Samples properly preserved?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No		
Sample bottles intact?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No		
Preservations documented on Chain of Custody?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No		
Containers documented on Chain of Custody?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No		
Sufficient sample amount for indicated test?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No		
All samples received within sufficient hold time?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No		
VOC samples have zero headspace?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No	Not Applicable	

Other observations:

Variance Documentation:

Contact Person: - _____ Date/Time: _____ Contacted by: _____
Regarding:

Corrective Action Taken:

**COTTON
BLEDSOE
TIGHE &
DAWSON, PC**
Attorneys at Law

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June 17, 2005

Via Facsimile (505) 476-3462

David K. Brooks
Assistant General Counsel
Oil Conservation Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: Case 13,142, Application of New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, through the Environment Bureau Chief for an Order Requiring Maralo, LLC to Remediate Hydrocarbon Contamination at an Abandoned Well and Battery Site, Lea County, New Mexico (do novo)

Dear Mr. Brooks:

We are in receipt of your letter of June 13, 2005, inquiring as to Maralo's position with respect to remediation of the Jay Anthony Ranch.

We apologize for any confusion with respect to the issues discussed in your letter. However, Maralo has attempted to comply with the OCD's rulings in this matter. On or about July 9, 2004, after the OCD's first ruling but while Maralo's Motion for Rehearing was pending, Maralo submitted a remediation plan to the Division for approval. A copy of this correspondence is attached hereto for your review.

After the rehearing of this matter at the end of last year, Maralo realized that the Division had also requested a plan delineating the scope of proposed remediation. Preparation of this delineation plan required the hiring of consultants and testing on the Anthony Ranch. This testing took place earlier this year and on May 5, 2005, Maralo filed its delineation plan with the Division. A copy of this plan is also attached hereto for your reference.

Again, Maralo apologizes for any confusion that may have arisen from this issue but has not willfully neglected this matter. We hope the attachments referenced herein resolve some of the confusion surrounding the remediation of the Anthony Ranch.

Mid: 004802\000011\468646.1

David K. Brooks
June 17, 2005
Page 2

Please feel free to give Rick strange or me a call at your convenience if you wish to discuss this matter further. Thank you for your professional courtesies.

Very truly yours,

COTTON, BLEDSOE, FIGHE & DAWSON



David W. Lauritzen

DWL:kk
Attachments

cc: William G. Solomon (w/attach.)
Attorney at Law
5151 San Felipe, Suite 400
Houston, Texas 77056-3607

W. Thomas Kellahin (w/attach.)
Kellahin and Kellahin
117 North Guadalupe
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

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July 9, 2004

Via Facsimile (505) 476-3462 and
Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested

Mark E. Fesmire, P.E.
State of New Mexico
Oil Conservation Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Via Facsimile (505) 476-3462 and
Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested

Environmental Bureau of New Mexico
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Re: **Case No. 13142 / Order No. R-12152 — Submission for Approval of Remediation Plan to Delineate the Lateral and Vertical Extent of Hydrocarbon Contamination Existing at the Site of Humble State Well No. 3 in Unit A of Section 36, Township 25 South, Range 36 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico**

Dear Director Fesmire:

Pursuant to the Order of the Division dated June 9, 2004, and subject to its pending appeal and request for stay, please accept this as Maralo's submission for approval of a remediation work plan to delineate the lateral and vertical extent of the hydrocarbon contamination existing at the site of the Humble State Well No. 3 in Unit A of Section 36, Township 25 South, Range 36 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico.

The hydrocarbon contamination discussed in the above-referenced Case No. 13142 is on the property of one Jay Anthony.

Maralo proposes to excavate and remediate the top two feet of visual TPH impacted soil to a limit of <5,000 PPM or <100 PPM PDI. Subsequently, Maralo will replace remediated soil back to its original location.

Mid: 004802\000011\420189.1

Before the OCC
Case 13142 - De Novo
OCD Ex. 28

Mark E. Fesmire, P.E.
July 9, 2004
Page 2

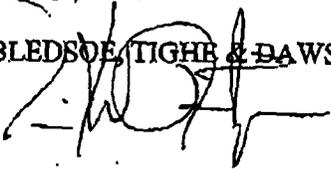
With the data the State has previously accumulated in this case from its own field representatives, as well as the data provided by Mr. Anthony, Maralo submits that no further bores for delineation are needed for the Humble State Well No. 3.

Maralo believes that this remediation work plan will eliminate the source of the contaminated plume, which consequently will eliminate the head necessary to drive contamination to groundwater. To two-foot remediated topsoil <5,000PPM TPH will support vegetation with sufficient annual waterfall for the region. In previous testimony before the OCD, the Division's expert hydrologist, Mr. William C. Olson, indicated that a remediation plan along the lines set out herein would be acceptable to the Division.

Thank you for your attention to this remediation work plan submitted for approval of the Division. As always, if you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Rick Strange or me at your convenience. We look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,

COTTON, BLEDSOE, TIGHE & DAWSON



David W. Lauritzen

DWL:kk

cc: Via Facsimile (505) 476-3462
Gail MacQuesten
Attorney for OCD

Via Facsimile (505) 476-3462
William C. Olson
OCD

Via Facsimile (505) 936-0632
David Sandoval
Attorney for Jay Anthony

Via Facsimile (505) 982-2047
W. Thomas Kellahin
Attorney for Maralo, LLC

KELLAHIN & KELLAHIN
Attorney at Law

W. Thomas Kellahin
Recognized Specialist in the Area of
Natural Resources-oil and gas law-
New Mexico Board of Legal Specialization

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Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504
117 North Guadalupe
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Telephone 505-982-4285
Facsimile 505-982-2047
kellahin@earthlink.net

May 5, 2005

HAND DELIVERED

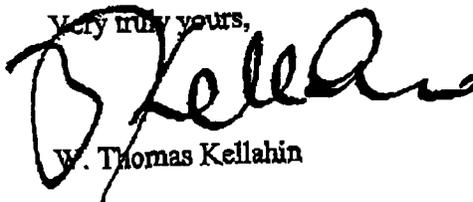
Mr. Roger Anderson,
Environmental Bureau
Oil Conservation Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: NMOCD Case 13142 (De Novo) Order R-12152-A
Application of the NMOCD for an Order
Requiring Maralo, LLC to Remediate
Hydrocarbon Contamination at an
Abandoned well's tank battery Site
(Jay Anthony Complaint) Lea County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Anderson:

On behalf of Maralo, LLC I am requesting your "approval of a plan to delineate the extent of the contamination existing at the site of the Humble State Well No. 3 and its associated facilities including areas used for pits, tank batteries and the like" that is enclosed that was prepared by Maralo's environmental expert, Mr. Rob Elam, and transmitted to me by facsimile dated April 26, 2005. Mr. Elam's report consists of the enclosed plat and a one-page written summary.

Very truly yours,



W. Thomas Kellahin

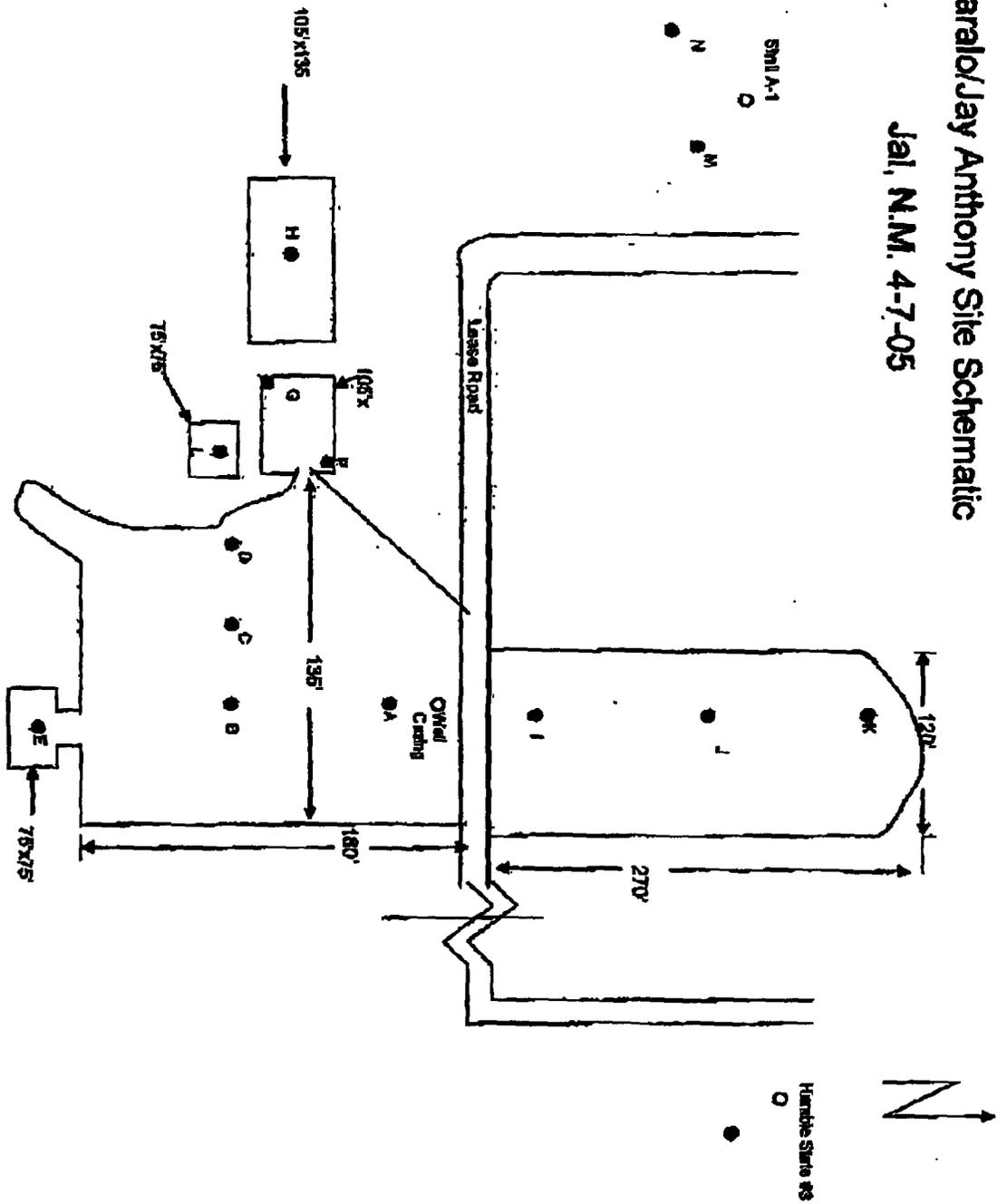
cc: Maralo, LLC;
Rich Strange, Esq. 432-684-3168 (fx)
William Solomon, Esq. 713-960-1672 (fx)

David Sandoval, Esq.
Attorney for Jay Anthony
505-986-0632 (fx)

2005 APR 5 PM 3 14

Maralo/Jay Anthony Site Schematic

Jal, N.M. 4-7-05



Apr 26 05 04:53p

432-6 4192

p. 3

CLOSURE PLAN FOR MARALO-ANTHONY SITE

Maralo proposes to conduct exploratory drilling at the subject site to a depth of 150 ft. if necessary, taking photo ionization detector (PID) samples at 5 ft. intervals to a depth that 2 consecutive samples indicate less than 100 parts per million (ppm) BTEX content. Approximately 15 to 18 borings at points agreed upon by Maralo and Anthony representatives will be selected. The sample will be accessed using a split spoon device with each sample being split with the representatives of each party. Samples for laboratory analysis will be taken at selected points and tested for chloride content and total petroleum hydrocarbon content.

A site drawing is attached indicating proposed drilling/sampling points.

TRANSACTION REPORT

P. 01

JUN-17-2005 FRI 01:06 PM

FOR:

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DATE	START	SENDER	RX TIME	PAGES	TYPE	NOTE	M#	DP
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NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

BILL RICHARDSON

Governor

Joanna Prukop

Cabinet Secretary

Mark E. Fesmire, P.E.

Director

Oil Conservation Division

June 13, 2005

Mr. Rick G. Strange
Cotton, Bledsoe, Tighe & Dawson, PC
500 W. Illinois, Suite 300
Midland, TX 79701

Re: Case No 13142; Maralo LLC

Dear Mr. Strange:

As you are doubtless aware, the Order entered by the Oil Conservation Commission on December 9, 2004, directed your client, Maralo, LLC, to submit to us a work plan for remediation of contamination at the site that was the subject matter of this proceeding within 45 days of the entry of that order. Obviously that date is long past, and Maralo has neither appealed the order nor filed anything with this agency indicating any intention to comply.

Base on the above facts, we believed Maralo had no intention of complying. Word has reached us, however, from the landowner, Jay Anthony, and from Maralo's bonding agent, that Maralo may have undertaken some investigative activity at this site. This has been done, if it has, without any communication with us.

If Maralo intends to undertake any activity designed to comply with the order in this case, it is important that contact be established concerning the matter with this agency. Please advise me if Maralo has any interest in resolving this matter otherwise than by litigation.

Should you have any questions, please call me at (505)-476-3450.

Very truly yours,

David K. Brooks
Assistant General Counsel

Brooks, David K

From: Leach, Carol
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2005 8:09 AM
To: Brooks, David K
Cc: Fesmire, Mark
Subject: FW: work items

Dave----Please, would you handle the matters Gail outlined below? Just trying to balance the workflow. Thanks.

Mark, Were you aware of the three year old case? Other cases? Does this make sense to you that these are still pending?

-----Original Message-----

From: Fesmire, Mark
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2005 9:15 AM
To: MacQuesten, Gail; Leach, Carol
Cc: Sanchez, Daniel
Subject: RE: work items

Carol:

It looks like Gail is right. This may have been written before our discussion in the hall. Should I talk to David?

Mark

-----Original Message-----

From: MacQuesten, Gail
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2005 2:27 PM
To: Leach, Carol; Fesmire, Mark
Cc: Sanchez, Daniel
Subject: work items

Carol and Mark - I'd like to keep our enforcement efforts moving forward during the legislative session, but right now I am swamped. I have Loco Hills at the March commission hearing, hope to schedule the rulemaking proceeding on multiple operators for the April commission hearing, plan to send out an NOV to Yates and nasty grams to Energen and Chi that will cause all hell to break loose, am trying to help the districts with various NOV's and ACO's, will be working with Daniel to heat up our inactive well program with ACO's and hearing applications, and am still trying to get a few abandoned wells plugged. And then there is the legislative stuff. It would be very helpful if David could take over the following enforcement items, which I do not think will pose any conflicts:

1. Maralo. (David was involved in this case at the beginning, so he cannot represent the commission in this matter.)

I have obtained orders from the division and from the commission. It now appears that Maralo has sold its wells in NM, and wants to take its bond and run. I stopped the release of the bond. Maralo is calling and someone needs to talk to them about why we are not releasing their bond. (Kathy Norberg, 1-888-847-2853, ext. 204.) Mark would like us to file an application to forfeit the bond, and if we are going to take such action, we should probably do so soon. We may also need to proceed against the company that now holds the lease.

2. About 3 1/2 years ago David brought case 12771 against about 14 operators, seeking penalties and an order requiring them to bring their inactive wells back into compliance. (That case did not seek authority to plug the wells and pull the bonds.) We still don't have an order. I suggested to David that we dismiss this case. We aren't pursuing penalties, and my guess is that most of these operators have disappeared or are otherwise judgment proof. David wanted to keep the case going. We need to do plugging cases on these same operators (and same wells). If I file plugging cases and the end up before the commission, David will not be able to sit with the commission because he has a pending case against the same operators alleging the same violations that are the basis for the plugging cases. It would be very helpful, therefore, if he would do the plugging cases that need to be done on these operators. I already did two such cases before I became aware of this pending case. Richard thinks there may be other old compliance cases floating around without orders, but I am not aware of them.

Thanks. Gail

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

**CASE NO. 13142
De Novo**

**APPLICATION OF THE NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION,
THROUGH THE ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU CHIEF, FOR AN ORDER
REQUIRING MARALO, LLC TO REMEDIATE HYDROCARBON
CONTAMINATION AT AN ABANDONED WELL AND BATTERY SITE; LEA
COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.**

Order No. R-12152-A

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

This matter comes before the Oil Conservation Commission (OCC) on Application of the Environmental Bureau Chief of the Oil Conservation Division (Division or OCD) for an Order requiring Maralo, LLC to remediate hydrocarbon contamination at an abandoned well and battery site in Lea County, New Mexico. The Commission held a hearing on the Application in Santa Fe on November 10, 2004, at which both parties were represented by counsel and Jay Anthony, the surface owner of the site at issue, was also represented by counsel. The Commission having considered the pleadings and evidence of record, the testimony of witnesses before it, the applicable law and rules, the arguments of counsel, and being fully advised in the matter, finds that:

1. The Commission has jurisdiction of the matter pursuant to Section 70-2-13, NMSA 1978, on appeal to the Commission. The matter was heard de novo based on the issues raised in the following Amended Application:

**AMENDED APPLICATION
FOR ORDER DIRECTING REMEDIATION**

1. Maralo, LLC ("Maralo") is the current operator of record of the Humble State Well No. 3 (API No. 30-025-09831) and associated tank battery and pits, located in Unit A, Section 36, Township 25 South, Range 36 East, Lea County, New Mexico ("the site").
2. Ralph Lowe drilled the Humble State Well No. 3 in 1945 and operated the well and the associated tank battery and pits until his death.
3. Mr. Lowe's daughter, Mary Ralph Lowe, was one of the organizers of "Maralo, Inc.," which replaced Ralph Lowe as operator of record for the well in 1974. According to records filed with the Oil Conservation Division ("OCD"), "Maralo, Inc." plugged and abandoned the Humble State Well No. 3 in 1988.

4. In 1999, the OCD approved a request for an operator name change from "Maralo, Inc." to "Maralo, LLC." "Maralo, LLC" is registered to do business in New Mexico under SCC number 2017929. The Public Regulation Commission web site shows no listing for "Maralo, Inc."

5. The OCD's Environmental Bureau began an investigation of the Humble State Well No. 3 and associated tank battery and pits in response to the surface owner's complaint that water samples taken from a water well adjacent to the tank battery showed elevated levels of chlorides.

6. At the time of the Environmental Bureau's initial site inspection in 2001 the tank or tanks used at the battery site had been removed. OCD inspectors observed chunks of petroleum contaminated soil ranging from smaller pieces up to softball size or larger covering an area surrounding the former tank battery. It appeared to the inspectors that the material had been spread across or disked across the area.

7. OCD inspectors observed three unlined pits at the site. One pit, approximately 75' square, is located to the south of the former tank battery. Two pits, each approximately 150' square, are located to the west of the former tank battery. OCD inspectors observed a rim of hard oil-contaminated soils around each of the three pits. It appeared to the inspectors that the pits had been covered or buried, but that the oil had resurfaced around the rims.

8. Water samples taken by OCD inspectors from the water well at the site confirmed some chloride contamination of groundwater above the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission standard, but did not show petroleum contamination of the water.

9. In 2001, OCD investigators collected one soil sample from the surface of the tank battery area, and five samples from the pits at depths ranging from zero to 8 feet. Laboratory analysis of the soil samples showed negligible levels of chlorides. However, the soil sample taken in 2001 at a level of zero to 12 inches in the area of the tank battery showed 35,700 mg/Kg of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) and 0.685 mg/Kg of xylene; the soil sample taken from the surface of one of the pits contained 23,900 mg/Kg of TPH; and a soil sample taken from one of the pits at a depth of three to four feet contained 20,900 mg/Kg TPH.

10. In 2002, OCD investigators returned to take additional soil samples at depths ranging from 2 feet to 27 feet. Again, laboratory analysis of the soil samples showed negligible levels of chlorides. Laboratory analysis of soil samples taken from two locations at the site contained up to 25,400 mg/Kg of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH); up to 0.179 mg/Kg of benzene; up to 0.432 mg/Kg of ethylbenzene; and up to 0.921 mg/Kg of xylene.

11. According to testimony from a former Lowe/Maralo employee at the division hearing in this matter, Ralph Lowe used the pits to dispose of produced water until 1968, and the water, although low in chlorides,

contained oil in emulsion. The employee also testified that the oil tanks at the battery site had overflowed on occasion.

12. The Oil and Gas Act, Chapter 70, Article 2 NMSA 1978 ("the Act"), grants the Commission and the OCD broad enforcement powers, including "jurisdiction, authority and control of and over all persons, matters or things necessary or proper to enforce effectively the provisions of this act or any other law of this state relating to the conservation of oil or gas...." Section 70-2-6, NMSA 1978. Similar language has described the powers of the Commission since its creation in 1935. See Laws, 1935, ch. 72, Section 4.

13. Rule 313 [19.15.5.313 NMAC] provides:

Wells producing oil shall be operated in such a manner as will reduce as much as practicable the formation of emulsion and basic sediments. These substances and tank bottoms shall not be allowed to pollute fresh waters or cause surface damage. (Emphasis added.)

This prohibition has been in effect since 1935. See Oil Conservation Commission of New Mexico Order No. 4, rule 16.

14. Rule 310.A [19.15.5.310.A NMAC] provides in relevant part as follows:

Oil shall not be stored or retained in earthen reservoirs, or in open receptacles.

This prohibition has been in effect since 1935. See Oil Conservation Commission of New Mexico Order No. 4, rule 15.

15. To enforce Rule 313's prohibition against allowing emulsions to cause surface damage or pollute fresh waters, and to enforce Rule 310.A's prohibition against retaining oil in earthen reservoirs or open receptacles, the Commission should exercise its enforcement powers under Section 70-2-6 by issuing an order requiring Maralo, the current operator of record, to remediate the ongoing hydrocarbon contamination at the site.

16. Alternatively, the Commission should order Maralo to remediate hydrocarbon contamination at the site under one or more of the following authorities:

a. Section 70-2-12(B), NMSA 1978 authorizes the OCD:

to make...orders for the purposes and with respect to the subject matter stated in this subsection:

...
(18) to ... do all acts necessary and proper to ... restore and remediate abandoned well sites and associated production facilities in accordance

with the provisions of the Oil and Gas Act, the rules and regulations adopted under that act

(21) to regulate the disposition of nondomestic wastes resulting from the exploration, development, production or storage of crude oil or natural gas to protect public health and the environment....

b. Rule 13.B [19.15.1.13.B NMAC] provides:

all operators, contractors, drillers, carriers, gas distributors, service companies, pipe pulling and salvaging contractors, treating plant operators or other persons shall at all times conduct their operations in or related to the drilling, equipping, operating, producing, plugging and abandonment of oil, gas, injection, disposal, and storage wells or other facilities in a manner that will prevent waste of oil and gas, the contamination of fresh waters and shall not wastefully utilize oil or gas, or allow either to leak or escape from a natural reservoir, or from wells, tanks, containers, pipe or other storage, conduit or operating equipment.

c. Rule 202.B(3) [19.15.4.202.B(3) NMAC] requires the operator, no later than one year after the completion of plugging operations, to take such measures as are necessary or required by the OCD "to restore the location to a safe and clean condition."

d. Rule 116.D [19.15.3.116.D NMAC] provides:

The responsible person must complete division approved corrective action for releases which endanger public health or the environment. Releases will be addressed in accordance with a remediation plan submitted to and approved by the division or with an abatement plan submitted in accordance with Section 19 of 19.15.1 NMAC.

17. Although the statutes and rules cited in paragraph 16, above, took effect after the date Maralo states it plugged and abandoned the well and discontinued use of the site, the Commission may apply these statutes and rules to remediate existing contamination.

WHEREFORE, the Environmental Bureau Chief of the Division hereby applies to the Commission to enter an order:

A. Directing Maralo to submit a work plan to remediate hydrocarbon contamination existing at the Humble State No. 3 site;

B. Upon approval of said work plan by the Environmental Bureau, to complete remediation of the site in accordance with the work plan; and

C. For such other and further relief as the Commission deems just and proper under the circumstances.

2. The application sets forth several alternative rule violations that could justify an order for remediation. The Commission needs only to find non-compliance with one rule to justify such an order.
3. The Environmental Bureau was present and represented by counsel who characterized the case as one of responsibility for contamination. Jay Anthony, the surface owner of the site, was present and represented by counsel who described the remaining problems for the rancher related to the contamination. Maralo was present and represented by counsel who characterized the case as the retroactive application of standards, a rewriting of the rules, no wrongdoing by Maralo, and the lease was assigned to another operator therefore Maralo was the wrong party.

REVIEW OF THE EVIDENCE

4. Wayne Price, a Senior Environmental Engineer of the Environmental Bureau of the OCD in Santa Fe, was accepted as an expert based on his education and experience.
5. Mr. Price and other OCD employees visited the site identified in Paragraph 1 of the Application, set out above, after Jay Anthony, the surface owner in the area of Humble State Well Number 3, made a complaint. Pits and tanks were associated with this well. Records of the OCD indicated the well and the facilities were owned and had been operated by Maralo or its predecessors in interest. Visual inspections indicated surface contamination of the soils by hydrocarbons.
6. Beginning in 2001 the OCD conducted tests at the site. Samples from the water well on the site showed some elevated chlorides above groundwater standards, but no significant hydrocarbons. Tests of soil samples at various places on the site including in the area of former pits and tank batteries indicated the presence of hydrocarbons.
7. Petroleum hydrocarbons at certain levels can be detrimental to plant and animal life. Crude oil contains benzene, which is a carcinogen. It also contains BTEX, an acronym for benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene and m-, p-and o-xylenes. OCD employees were concerned about the possibility of contaminants entering the pipeline or aqueduct supplying fresh water to the City of Jal, contaminants entering watercourses in the area, contaminates entering playa lake beds, and contaminants reaching groundwater in the area.
8. OCD guidelines for cleaning up contamination from leaks and spills apply different standards for the concentration of contaminants that may remain in the soil depending on the depth to groundwater from the bottom of the contamination. If the distance is less than 50 feet from the lowermost contaminants to groundwater then the clean up standard is 100 parts per million of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) remaining in the soil. If the distance is 50 to 100 feet, the

standard is 1000 parts per million. If the distance is more than 100 feet then the standard is 5000 parts per million. The distance to a water well is also considered. If the distance from the contaminants to the water well is zero to 200 feet then the clean up standard is 100 parts per million. If the distance is 200 to 1000 feet then the clean up standard is 1000 parts per million. If the distance is greater than 1000 feet then the standard is 5000 parts per million.

9. These guidelines have been in place since 1993. Prior to that time OCD followed one standard allowing no more than 100 parts per million TPH.
10. Soil tests at the site varied and indicated levels of TPH up to 35,700 parts per million. Benzene was also found at levels exceeding state groundwater standards. At one point in an old pit area the soil was saturated with hydrocarbons. In a field test, squeezing the soil in a paper towel would result in a liquid stain. Some of the pit areas appeared to be covered with a sandy soil. Covering hydrocarbon contamination with soil will extend the life of the contamination that might otherwise dissipate naturally.
11. Boreholes at one pit on the site produced samples at the five-foot level with a TPH level of approximately 18,000 parts per million and at the 10-foot level increased to 25,000 parts per million. At 15 feet, 13,000 parts per million and at lower depths less contamination. Mr. Price testified the pit had obviously had oil in it.
12. Mr. Price also reviewed testing supplied by a consultant to the surface owner that indicated contamination down to 80 feet.
13. Mr. Price indicated the heaviest contamination found was in the upper area which probably explains why there is no vegetation growing in the area.
14. Mr. Price indicated invoices provided by Maralo show a contractor performed services for Maralo in 1994 to restore and clean up at the abandoned tank battery. The well, Humble Number 3, had been plugged in 1988. OCD files do not indicate that OCD approved the clean up of the tank battery site. Mr. Price testified the clean up was substandard and that it appeared all that was done was breaking of the dirt and then adding more dirt.
15. In order to remediate the site, Mr. Price testified that the total extent of the contamination must be delineated and then the leachability of the material must be determined to see if there will be an impact to groundwater. Some of the spots of highest contamination will probably have to be removed, but some could remain if the material is not leachable and the surface is restored so that it will not contaminate groundwater in the future. Then the area would grow grass and not be a threat to people using the surface area for work or recreation.

16. When questioned by counsel for the surface owner, Mr. Price testified the casing in a water well could serve as a conduit for contamination to groundwater. He also said the standard of care for a contaminated site is to clean up to a level that would support the growth of plants and that has not been done at this site. He also said he could not rule out the possibility of elevated chlorides in the water well resulting from the site until the site delineation is complete.
17. Mr. Price also testified that it was the practice of OCD to look to the current operator of the site to be responsible for the condition of the site.
18. On cross-examination Mr. Price testified that at this time OCD staff was not alleging groundwater had been contaminated by the site.
19. A comparison of aerial photographs used as exhibits indicated that certain surface disposal pits existing in 1968 were not in active use in 1977.
20. Mr. Price testified that his evidence of Maralo's activity at the site was based on the invoices from the contractor indicating contaminated dirt was treated and some was removed. He had no direct evidence that Maralo used a surface disposal pit to store oil or placed tank bottoms or bottom sediments in the pits.
21. Mr. Price testified that all produced water will have some amount of oil in it and that locations used as surface disposal pits would have some amount of hydrocarbons in the soil. When asked if all those sites would have to be cleaned up Mr. Price indicated they would if they were a threat to public health, the environment, or groundwater.
22. He stated that the threat to the water of the City of Jal was of low probability and was not an immediate threat.
23. Mr. Price agreed on cross-examination that operating a well for any length of time would result in some emulsion and basic sediments and that Rule 313 requires that the operator reduce as much as possible the formation of emulsion and basic sediments. He did not have sufficient information about Maralo's operations to criticize the way Maralo operated the wells.
24. Mr. Price understood the Maralo was the current operator at the site. In all material matters the testimony of Mr. Price was consistent with the OCD hydrologist appearing before the Division Hearing Examiner.
25. Responding to questions from the Commissioners Mr. Price said that the asphalt-type material on the surface was not very amenable to bioremediation. It would have to be broken up and nutrients applied to or it would be there forever. He also testified that clean up to the 5000 parts per million standard would support vegetation comparable to the area surrounding the site.

26. Mr. Price read into the record portions of several documents from the files of the State Land Office and the documents were admitted without objection. The documents were assignments of the oil and gas lease for the site from Humble Oil and Refining Company to Ralph Lowe, from Erma Lowe individually and as independent Executrix and Trustee of the Estate of Ralph Lowe to herself and to Maralo, Inc., and from the Estate of Erma Lowe and Maralo Merging Corporation to Lowe Partners, LP. In each document the assignee assumed and agreed to perform all obligations to the State of New Mexico insofar as the described land is affected and to do other acts as required by the original lease. Mr. Price then read from the base lease the section providing that the lessee will be liable and pay for all damages to the range, livestock, growing crops, or improvements caused by lessee's operations. The base lease was admitted without objection.
27. The "New Mexico State Land Office, Oil and Gas Miscellaneous Instrument Record Sheet," did not indicate any further assignments of the lease.
28. On further questioning from the Commission Mr. Price explained that historical contamination referenced in the initial complaint from OCD meant the contamination had not been addressed, but production operations had ceased.
29. Mr. Price indicated that the elevated chlorides in the water well at the site would be red flag indicating testing would be needed to determine if there might be a localized source for those chlorides and that would be included in delineation plan.
30. He further testified that the benzene levels in the soil would exceed groundwater standards and when that is seen there is a high probability that groundwater may be contaminated.
31. Mr. Price stated that it appeared the site was a centralized disposal facility for the wells on the lease and would not be cleaned up until all the wells had been plugged.
32. Mr. Price testified that it was approximately 200 feet from the surface to groundwater based on the water well at the edge of the southern pit area, the tank battery area. The soils there are sandy with high permeability and transmissivity.
33. Mr. Price said allowing an operator to plug the wells and leave the site without taking care of the contamination would open the door for massive contamination to remain there and contaminate our future groundwater supply. If the operator did not pay for the clean up then it would be paid for by the people of New Mexico.
34. Returning to the 1977 aerial photograph, Mr. Price stated that the area at the site without vegetation would indicate there was contamination at the area in 1977. This situation continued to the time of Mr. Price's first visit to the site years later.

Hydrocarbon contamination was visible at that time with dark soil, chunks of asphaltic material, oil residue left on the hand when picking up the soil, and the smell of oil from the soil. If emulsions were placed into the pits the emulsions were still causing contamination of the surface of the site.

35. Dorothy Phillips, the OCD plugging bond administrator, provided OCD financial assurance records showing that Humble State Number 3 had not been transferred from Maralo to some other operator. The same was true of Shell State A Number 1. Additionally the financial assurance files showed that in 1999 Maralo requested a name change on its bond from Maralo, Inc. to Maralo, LLC. In 2000 Maralo, LLC added Lowe Partners, LP as an additional principal on the bond. OCD approved both of these actions. Ms. Phillips also checked with other state agencies regarding Lowe Partners and learned that Erma Lowe and Maralo, Inc. were its general partners.
36. Ralph Lowe individually was considered a different entity from Maralo by OCD records.
37. Roger C. Anderson, Environmental Bureau Chief for OCD, was accepted as an expert in oilfield contamination and remediation.
38. OCD's well files for the Humble State Number 3 included a Notice of Intention to Drill filed by Ralph Lowe as the operator in 1945. It also includes a Certification of Compliance and Authorization for Ralph Lowe as the operator in 1945. That document indicates that tanks were on the lease site. Documents in 1974 indicate a change of operator from Ralph Lowe to Maralo, Inc. In 1986 and 1987 Maralo, Inc. filed proposals to plug and abandon the well. A subsequent report was filed in 1988 on the plugging and abandonment of the Humble State Number 3. No documents in the file indicated approval by the OCD for any clean up of the tank battery and pits. Nothing in the well file indicated Hal J. Rasmussen Operating, Inc. had become the operator. Nor was Southwest Royalties mentioned in the file.
39. Mr. Anderson explained that normally OCD would look to the operator to clean up contamination at a site. In this case the current operator of record is Maralo, LLC. Prior to the name change, the operator was Maralo, Inc. Prior to Maralo, Inc., the operator was Ralph Lowe, now deceased. Lease records at the hearing indicate the leaseholder is Lowe Partners, LP, and its partners are Maralo and Erma Lowe.
40. Mr. Anderson testified contamination continues at a site until it is cleaned up and it remains a threat because the contaminants are available for migration to groundwater, or back to the surface, or to other waters, or to a water well. In his opinion the contamination described in this case at the Humble State Number 3 site is still a threat.

41. Mr. Anderson provided a definition of emulsion as a stable dispersion of one liquid in a second immiscible liquid, such as oil dispersed in water. He stated that when an oil well is produced, there is enough turbulence to mix oil and water to create an emulsion. Some of that emulsion would have been included in the produced water that was carried over into a disposal pit. When the pit was closed then any remaining oil needs to be treated to avoid surface damage.
42. Mr. Anderson explained that basic sediment is oil, water, and foreign matter that collects in the bottom of petroleum storage tanks, and is also known as bottoms, bottom settlings, sediment and water. A common industry practice is to mix this material with sand to stabilize areas around a tank battery. He also said oil accumulations from spills or otherwise cannot be sold and is sediment oil under Rule 313.
43. Mr. Anderson says that Maralo is in violation of Rule 313 today because the hydrocarbons are still causing contamination of the surface. It will continue to be in violation until the contamination is cleaned up. If it is not cleaned up the rule will continue to be violated.
44. The Commission took administrative notice of its rulemaking records showing that the language in Rule 313 dates from rules in place as far back as 1935.
45. OCD records for wells other than the Humble State Number 3 on the lease do contain references to Rasmussen and Southwest Royalties, but the facilities associated with Humble State Number 3 are where the contamination is found.
46. Mr. Anderson testified that once the contamination was identified then OCD located records in the well file for Humble State Number 3 that reference the tank battery on the lease. In correspondence Maralo never claimed it was not the operator of the tank battery facility and did state that it had worked on the site in the mid-1990s.
47. Jay Sean Anthony is the ranch owner who initiated the complaint regarding the Maralo site. He testified that he would like to use the well at the site for cattle. He said other wells in the area did not have high chloride levels.
48. He had hoped the work by Maralo in 1993-94 would allow grass to grow on the site, but after several years it did not.
49. Maralo offered an exhibit showing the assignment from Maralo to Rasmussen in 1994. It was not an OCD record. According to counsel it transferred all of the wells on the site and the shallow rights. Maralo retained the right to drill deep wells.
50. William P. Hunt was an employee of Ralph Lowe and Maralo who retired in 1996. He started out working on drilling rigs and was operations manager when

he retired. He was familiar with the site from 1958 until 1981. He testified before the Division Hearing Examiner and the record indicates the testimony was similar to that before the Commission.

51. Mr. Hunt identified the location of tanks, heater treaters, and the water well on the site. He said he stopped using surface disposal pits in 1968 and was told to close the pits. Produced water went down to Number 1 SWD, the saltwater disposal well.
52. Mr. Hunt worked for Ralph Lowe when he died in 1965. Maralo, Inc. included Mary Ralph Lowe, Ralph Lowe's daughter. The leases have been in the Lowe family since the early 1950s.
53. While Maralo, Inc. was the operator the tanks would run over. When that happened the employees would use a pump to pick up the oil, but it was not possible to pick up all of the oil. The saturated soil was never remediated.
54. Texas-New Mexico pipeline caused the tanks on the site to run over sometimes.
55. Some of the contamination happened while Maralo was on the site.
56. A trucking company or a tank cleaning company from Hobbs removed tank bottoms.
57. Mr. Hunt approved payment of the clean up efforts contracted for by Maralo in 1994 as shown in Maralo Exhibit 20.
58. Mr. Hunt testified that the site looks like it does because some residue oil not cleaned by the heater treater was there. There is some percentage of oil that could not be treated out of the water. It would build up in the pits to a point that it would be picked up and treated again.
59. Joe Pulido is the land manger for Maralo. He was responsible for compiling Exhibit 9 from Maralo's files. Maralo Exhibit 9B transferred certain rights to Rasmussen.
60. Mr. Pulido testified that the assignments included in Exhibit 9 were for undivided interests and did not qualify for record title change with the Land Office. They assigned only the working interest in certain properties. The State Land Office records reflect that Lowe Partners would be responsible for activities on the lease as record title owner and for the requirements in the lease.
61. Mr. Pulido explained Maralo, LLC is the operating entity of Lowe Partners. Lowe Partners is the record title owner of the lease. It has a contractual assignment into Hal Rasmussen for the fee interest down to 3500 feet that is not

filed with the state. Mary Ralph Lowe is the president of Maralo, LLC, the managing partner of Lowe Partners.

62. Maralo, Inc. no longer exists. Erma Lowe died in 1998 so the partners of record listed with the Secretary of State for Lowe Partners no longer exist.
63. Despite the assignment Maralo still appears as operator of record, as far as the OCD is concerned, for Humble 3, Shell State A 1, Humble 1 (converted to a saltwater disposal well) and Humble 2. No notice of the transfer was provided to OCD or the State Land Office.
64. The lease assignment to Rasmussen occurred less than 30 days after the clean up work on the site in 1994. Maralo may have agreed to indemnify Rasmussen for the inadequate cleanup.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. The OCC has jurisdiction of this matter.
2. This matter concerns soil and perhaps water contamination at pits and tank batteries associated with Humble State Well Number 3 in Lea County.
3. Testing indicates soil contamination exists at the surface of the site and to some depth below the surface, perhaps as much as 80 feet. The contamination is likely to migrate until it is remediated. Vegetation will not grow on the site.
4. It has not yet been determined if the groundwater in the area has been contaminated, though the high chloride levels in a water well at the site indicate more testing is needed. Groundwater is 200 feet below the surface. Other bodies of fresh water may be at risk from the contamination.
5. While Maralo operated the site produced water with oil in it, an emulsion, was placed into the pits, the tanks overflowed, a pipeline leak caused the tanks to overflow, and Maralo took inadequate measures to close the pits. The soil was not remediated and the contamination continued and may have been exacerbated by Maralo having it covered. However the contamination was created, emulsions and basic sediment were placed on the soils and resulted in surface damage and possible contamination of fresh water. Maralo was the operator during the time period at least part of the contamination was created and is still listed in OCD records as the operator.
6. Maralo, LLC is the operating entity of Lowe Partners, LP the record title owner of the lease. Mary Ralph Lowe, the daughter of Ralph Lowe, is the president of Maralo, LLC. Lowe Partners has assigned interests in the site, but did not change the record title with the State Land Office.

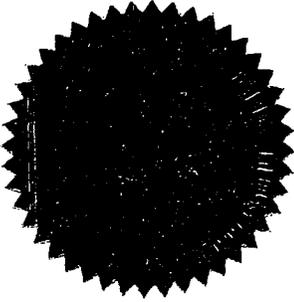
7. Maralo is shown as the operator of the site in OCD records since 1974. In 1999 Maralo requested a name change on its bond for financial assurance from Maralo, Inc. to Maralo, LLC. Later Lowe Partners, LP was named as an additional principal on the bond.
8. OCD records for the site do not refer to any other parties as operator of the site.
9. Exhibits indicate a portion of the interest in the lease has been assigned, but that this information was not provided to the state agencies nor has Maralo been released from the obligations related to this site.
10. Oily emulsions were released on the surface of the site. They have caused surface damage and may have polluted fresh water. The contamination continues so there is no retroactive application of clean up standards.
11. Maralo has not complied with Rule 313, which has existed in similar form since 1935.
12. The actions complained of in this matter took place after 1935.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED,

13. The Amended Application of the Environmental Bureau of the Oil Conservation Division is approved.
14. Maralo is ordered, within 45 days of this decision, to submit to the Environmental Bureau for approval or revision and approval a plan to delineate the extent of the contamination existing at the site of the Humble State Well Number 3 and its associated facilities including areas used for pits, tank batteries and the like.
15. Within six months of having the plan approved, Maralo is ordered to complete the activities necessary to delineate all the contamination of the site associated with the production of hydrocarbons including a determination of possible ground water contamination. The delineation report will be provided to the Environmental Bureau within the six-month time frame.
16. Maralo is further ordered to provide a plan for remediation of the contamination to the Environmental Bureau within 90 days of completing the delineation. The Environmental Bureau may approve the plan or revise it and approve it.
17. Maralo is further ordered to complete the physical tasks required in the remediation plan within six months of the approval of the plan, unless the plan specifies that certain activities may take place after that time. In that instance, Maralo shall meet the timeframes set forth in the plan.

18. Jurisdiction of this case is retained for the entry of such further orders as the Commission may deem necessary.

DONE at Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the 9th day of December 2004.



**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

JAMI BAILEY, CPG, MEMBER

FRANK T. CHAVEZ, MEMBER

MARK E. FESMIRE, P.E., CHAIR

SEAL

July 12, 2005

Mr. Joe Pulido, Manager
Maralo, LLC
P.O. Box 832
Midland, Texas 79702-0832

**RE: NMOCD Case 131142 Order R-12152-A
HUMBLE STATE #3 TANK BATTERY SITE
JAL, NEW MEXICO**

Dear Mr. Pulido:

The Oil Conservation Division (OCD) is in receipt of Maralo's delineation plan dated May 05, 2005 for the above referenced site. OCD has been informed that Maralo conducted a site investigation on or about April 6, 2005. This plan was not approved by OCD which was a requirement of the Order. In the spirit of cooperation, OCD is requesting that Maralo submit the results of the investigation to assist OCD in determining a proper path forward for the site.

Please submit the results of the investigation with conclusions and recommendations for a remediation plan by July 29, 2005. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 505-476-3487 or e-mail wayne.price@state.nm.us.

Sincerely;

Wayne Price-Pet. Engr. Spec.

xc: Roger Anderson-Environmental Bureau Chief
David Brooks-OCD Legal Counsel
Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Office
Jay Anthony-Landowner

A P P E A R A N C E S

FOR THE DIVISION:

GAIL MacQUESTEN
Deputy General Counsel
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

FOR MARALO, LLC:

KELLAHIN & KELLAHIN
117 N. Guadalupe
P.O. Box 2265
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2265

By: W. THOMAS KELLAHIN
and

COTTON, BLEDSOE, TIGHE & DAWSON, P.C.
500 West Illinois, Suite 300
Midland, TX 79701-4337
By: RICK G. STRANGE

FOR JAY ANTHONY:

HEARD, ROBINS, CLOUD, LUBEL & GREENWOOD, L.L.P.
300 Paseo de Peralta, Suite 200
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
By: DAVID SANDOVAL

986-0600

* * *

— no longer set for in
699-0073

Brooks, David K

From: Leach, Carol
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2005 7:34 AM
To: Brooks, David K
Subject: RE: What to do about Maralo?

Great info. Thanks.

-----Original Message-----

From: Brooks, David K
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2005 3:01 PM
To: Leach, Carol
Cc: Fesmire, Mark; Anderson, Roger; MacQuesten, Gail
Subject: RE: What to do about Maralo?

Regarding the bond, the terms of the Maralo bond, which was issued in 1993, are as follows [all emphasis added]:

"If the above bounden principal and surety or either of them . . . **shall plug all of said wells** wthey dry or abandoned in accordance with the rules, regulations, and orders of the Oil conservation Division of New Mexico in such way as to confine the oil, gas, brine and water in the strata in which they are found, and to prevent them from escaping into other strata . . ."

The bond also states that it is delivered pursuant to Section 70-2-12. Section 70-2-12.B(1) gives the OCD power to adopt rules:

"to require dry or abandoned wells to be plugged in a way to confine the crude petroleum oil, natural gas or water in the strata in which it is found and to prevent it from escaping into other strata; the division shall require a cash or surety bonds . . . conditioned for the performance of such regulations;"

Obviously many semantic games can be played with this language, but it seems to me that if we were to claim under the bond costs to cleaning up contamination at the battery site, the language I have underlined would support our claim, and the language I have put in bold would support a contention that the liability of the surety is limited to the cost of plugging the wells. I may be drawing to fine a bead. We have never had a surety refuse to pay location clean-up costs. However these are usually small in relation to plugging costs - not the case here.

Regarding what can be done to prevent this problem in the future, some steps have already been taken. The bond form currently in use provides:

"NOW, THEREFORE, if the PRINCIPAL and SURETY or either of them or their successors or assigns, or any of them, shall cause all of said wells to be properly plugged and abandoned when dry or when no longer productive or useful for other beneficial purpose, in accordance with the rules and orders of the of the Division, including but not limited to Rules 101 [19.15.3.101 NMAC] and 202 [19.15.4.202 NMAC], as such rules now exist or may hereafter be amended;"

Rule 202 provides (*inter alia*):

- " (3) As soon as practical but no later than one year after the completion of plugging operations, the operator shall:
- (a) fill all pits;
 - (b) level the location;
 - (c) remove deadmen and all other junk; and
 - (d) take such other measures as are necessary or required by the Division to restore the location to a safe and clean condition."

Thus it appears our position would be much stronger if the Maralo bond were on the new form. It would make it even stronger to further revise the form to say: "shall cause all of said wells to be properly plugged and abandoned when no longer productive or useful for other beneficial purpose, and the sites to be restored and remediated, in accordance with . . . "

This should probably be done and probably can be done without regulatory changes. At least since I have been here, no surety company has refused to use our bond form.

DB

-----Original Message-----

From: Leach, Carol
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2005 9:39 AM
To: Brooks, David K; Fesmire, Mark; Anderson, Roger
Cc: MacQuesten, Gail
Subject: RE: What to do about Maralo?

I could use a little more analysis on the second item.

On the first item, have you spoken to the private law firm that represents the landowner. They may have more ideas about assets.

And what do you suggest for change in bond language, rules, practices, etc. so this is avoided in the future.

-----Original Message-----

From: Brooks, David K
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2005 9:35 AM
To: Fesmire, Mark; Leach, Carol; Anderson, Roger
Cc: MacQuesten, Gail
Subject: What to do about Maralo?

It seems that Maralo has chosen to ignore Order R-12152-A requiring them to clean up a former battery site, now that they have divested all their production.

We have three alternatives:

- (1) Sue Maralo, LLC. It is quite probable that Maralo, LLC has no assets. Likely the proceeds of the sales went through Lowe Partners, and never touched Maralo, so that even a fraudulent transfer claim would not get far. However, I do not know how we would find that out, except by filing suit and conducting discovery.
- (2) Remediate the site ourselves using reclamation funds and present a claim on Maralo's bond. The bond of \$50,000 is probably not enough to cover costs, and there is the additional downside that the language of the bond is less than clear about liability of the bonding company for costs of surface remediation as distinguished from the actual plugging of the well.
- (3) Do nothing and accept the verdict that we can be cheeked with impunity.

I am inclined to recommend that we file suit and see what response we get. If they let us get a default judgment, that will be a pretty clear indication that we are holding an empty bag, and we can reconsider our course in light of that.



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

BILL RICHARDSON
Governor
Joanna Prukop
Cabinet Secretary

Mark E. Fesmire, P.E.
Director
Oil Conservation Division

February 23, 2005

Maralo, LLC
Attn Kathy Noberg
5151 San Felipe, Suite 400
Houston, TX 77056-3607

Re: Bond No. BO3897
Maralo, LLC, principal
Universal Underwriters Indemnity Co., surety

Dear Ms. Noberg:

We must **deny** your request of December 16, 2004 for release of the reference bond.

On December 9, 2004 the Oil Conservation Commission issued Order No. R-12152-A in Case No. 13142. That order directed Maralo, LLC to perform certain tasks concerning contamination existing at the site of the Humble State Well #3, located in Unit A, Section 36, Township 25 South, Range 36 East, Lea County, New Mexico. Initially, the order directed Maralo, LLC to submit a work plan no later than January 23, 2005. No work plan has been submitted.

Section 70-2-14 NMSA 1978 states that "[t]he oil conservation division shall release financial assurance when it is satisfied the conditions of the financial assurance have been fully performed." The referenced bond states that the principal or surety shall "plug all of said wells when dry or when abandoned *in accordance with the rules, regulations and orders of the Oil Conservation Division.*[emphasis added]" Paragraph 3 of subsection B of OCD Rule 202 [19.15.4.202 NMAC], which is entitled "Plugging and Permanent Abandonment," states:

As soon as practical but no later than one year after the completion of plugging operations, the operator shall:

(d) take all such other measures as are necessary or required by the Division to restore the location to a safe and clean condition.

Until Maralo, LLC complies with Order No. R-12152-A, we do not believe that the conditions of the bond have been fully performed.

Should you have questions, please feel free to call the undersigned at (505)-476-3460.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark E. Fesmire". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark E. Fesmire, P.E.
Director

cc: Underwriters Indemnity Co.
8 Greenway Plaza, Suite 400
Houston, TX 77046