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**GENERAL
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1991



CONSERVATION DIVISION
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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200

DALLAS, TEXAS 75202-2733

AUG 23 1991

Gilbert O. Lockwood
Deputy State Director
Mineral Resources
Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico State Office
P.O. Box 1449
Santa Fe, NM 87504-1449

Re: Mercury meter sites

Dear Mr. Lockwood:

Thank you for your letter of June 26, 1991. Your efforts to monitor mercury meter stations and to require pipeline companies to submit remedial plans for mercury spills are commendable. We have, to date, received a copy of one response from Transwestern Pipeline Company. If you receive any further questions from the companies involved, we recommend a vacuum and excavation cleanup technology which has been traditionally used in these situations. Removal or remedial actions under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) are determined on a case-by-case basis. Historically, these sites have not been sufficiently large to warrant removal or remedial action. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permitting or enforcement actions would also be determined on a case-by-case basis.

In addition, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and the Oil Conservation Division (OCD) of the Department of Energy and Minerals have said they may be willing to review remedial plans submitted by the pipeline companies even though some of these locations are on Indian Lands. We suggest you contact Mr. Benito Garcia of NMED, and Mr. David Boyer of OCD in this regard.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Laurie King, Closure Section Chief, RCRA Permits Branch, at (214) 655-6790.

Sincerely Yours,

Allyn M. Davis

Allyn M. Davis
Director
Hazardous Waste Management Division

cc: Benito Garcia, NMED

David Boyer, Oil Conservation Division