

CORRESPONDENCE

MISC.

Olson, William

From: Small, Sam [SMTP:SSmall@Hess.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2001 10:50 AM
To: 'WOLSON@state.nm.us'
Cc: Kriter, Kurt; Smith, Dennis; Williams, Robert
Subject: W.P. Byrd Battery Site Investigation - Monument, NM

Meridian Alliance will commence drilling the monitor wells as part of the Phase Two investigation at the site of AHC's W.P. Byrd Tank Battery on Wednesday March 14, 2001. I left a voice mail message with Chris Williams in Hobbs.

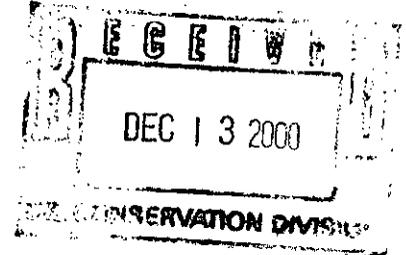
AMERADA HESS CORPORATION

SAMUEL W. SMALL, PE
OFFICE 915/758-6741
FAX 915/758-6768

P.O. BOX 840
SEMINOLE, TEXAS 79360
915/758-6700

December 11, 2000

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
7099 3220 0009 7105 3919



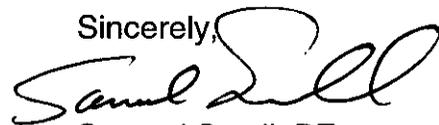
Mr. William C. Olson
Oil Conservation Division
2040 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

RE: W.P. Byrd Tank Battery
Site Investigation
Lea County, NM

Dear Mr. Olson:

Bids have been solicited for the Phase I and II site investigations in the vicinity of the subject facility. We anticipate that work will commence shortly after the first of the year. Due to work scheduling problems and the bidding process we were unable to conduct the investigations during December, therefore, we will not be able to provide you with the results of the investigations by December 29, 2000 as requested.

As previously stipulated, the NMOCD will be notified at least 48 hours before work commences on site. If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at 915-758-6741 or at the letterhead address.

Sincerely,

Samuel Small, PE
Environmental Coordinator

Xc: NMOCD Hobbs District
PBBU Environmental File
Houston Environmental File
Monument Area File



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

GARY E. JOHNSON
Governor
Jennifer A. Salisbury
Cabinet Secretary

Lori Wrotenbery
Director
Oil Conservation Division

October 27, 2000

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT NO. 5051-3709

Mr. Samuel Small
Amerada Hess Corporation
P.O. Box 840
Seminole, Texas 79360

**RE: W.P. BYRD TANK BATTERY
MONUMENT, NEW MEXICO**

Dear Mr. Small:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has reviewed Amerada Hess Corporation's (AHC) September 7, 2000 "W.P. BYRD TANK BATTERY, MONUMENT FIELD, LEA COUNTY, NM". This document contains AHC's work plan for investigation of the extent of contamination related to AHC's W.P. Byrd Tank Battery located in Unit G, Section 12, Township 20 South, Range 36 East, NMPM, Lea County, New Mexico.

The above-referenced work plan is approved with the following conditions:

1. All soil samples shall be obtained and analyzed using EPA approved methods and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC).
2. No less than 24 hours after the wells are developed, ground water from all monitor wells shall be purged, sampled and analyzed for concentrations of benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene, total dissolved solids (TDS) and major cations and anions using EPA approved methods and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC).
3. All wastes generated during the investigation shall be disposed of at an OCD approved facility.

4. AHC shall submit the results of the investigation to the OCD by December 29, 2000. The report shall be submitted to the OCD Santa Fe Office with a copy provided to the OCD Hobbs District Office and shall include the following information:
 - a. A description of the past spills and disposal activities and all investigation activities which occurred including conclusions and recommendations.
 - b. A geologic/lithologic log and well completion diagram for each monitor well and/or borehole.
 - c. A water table map showing the location of the spills, monitor wells, tanks, water wells, wellheads and any other pertinent site features as well as the direction and magnitude of the hydraulic gradient created using the water table elevation from each monitor well.
 - d. Summary tables of all soil and ground water quality sampling results and copies of all laboratory analytical data sheets and associated QA/QC data.
 - e. The disposition of all wastes generated.

Please be advised that OCD approval does not relieve AHC of responsibility should the investigation actions fail to adequately define the extent of contamination related to AHC's activities, or if contamination exists which is outside the scope of the work plan. In addition, OCD approval does not relieve AHC of responsibility for compliance with any other federal, state or local laws and regulations.

If you have any questions, please call me at (505) 827-7154.

Sincerely,



William C. Olson
Hydrologist
Environmental Bureau

xc: Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Office
J.R. Byrd

AMERADA HESS CORPORATION

SAMUEL W. SMALL, PE
OFFICE 915/758-6741
FAX 915/758-6768

P.O. BOX 840
SEMINOLE, TEXAS 79360
915/758-6700

September 7, 2000

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
Z 437 801 929

RECEIVED
SEP 11 2000

CONSERVATION DIVISION

Mr. William C. Olson
Oil Conservation Division
2040 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

RE: W.P. Byrd Tank Battery
Monument Field
Lea County, NM

Dear Mr. Olson:

In response to your letter of May 22, 2000 regarding the alleged contamination of Mr. J.R. Byrd's domestic water well, on the basis of the information currently available, Amerada Hess Corporation (AHC) does not concede that the W.P. Byrd Tank Battery, and/or current or past operations associated with the tank battery, is the source of chloride, TDS or BTEX contamination in Mr. Byrd's water well. Due to the tank battery's proximity to the water well, however, AHC does agree to undertake a preliminary site investigation to determine whether the tank battery, the alleged unlined pits and/or historical spills at the site are sources of, or contribute to, the contamination in the water well.

The investigation will include drilling and sampling monitor wells northwest of the tank battery (presumed to be up-gradient), between the tank battery and the water well, and in the areas of the alleged unlined pits and historical spills. The number and location of the monitor wells will be determined after the location of the two pits Mr. Byrd refers to have been determined and after AHC has executed a contract with an environmental consulting firm. Water from Mr. Byrd's well located north of the tank battery will also be sampled. Well locations and ground level elevations will be plotted by a licensed surveyor. Fluid level data from the wells will be used to determine the magnitude and direction of the hydraulic gradient across the site.

The monitor wells will be drilled to a depth at least ten (10) feet below the water table. Vadose zone and aquifer samples will be collected at five (5) foot intervals from each well to develop a geologic log, and the samples will be analyzed for chloride, TPH and BTEX concentrations. Analysis will be performed using appropriate NMOCD approved protocols with documented QA/QC. A fifteen-foot well screen will be gravel packed across the aquifer and five (5) feet above the water table in each well with the gravel pack continuing 2-3 feet above the screen. A 2-3 foot bentonite plug will be

placed above the gravel pack and the casing will be grouted to the surface with cement containing 5% bentonite. Locked wellhead vaults will be installed on each monitor well.

The monitor wells will be developed consistent with EPA and/or ASTM approved methods. Water samples gathered from the wells will be analyzed for concentrations of BTEX, chlorides and TDS. Mr. Byrd's well located north of the battery will be sampled similarly, if the well can be re-entered.

The NMOCD Hobbs District Office will be notified a least 48 hours before work commences onsite. Upon completion of the investigation, AHC will submit a report detailing the findings. The report will include all geologic logs, drilling sample and water analyses and a plat of the investigation site with fluid level depths noted on the plat.

If you have any questions or require a modification of this plan, please contact the undersigned at the letterhead address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samuel Small". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Samuel Small, PE
Environmental Coordinator

Xc: NMOCD Hobbs District
PBBU Environmental File
Houston Environmental File
Monument Area File



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

GARY E. JOHNSON
Governor
Jennifer A. Salisbury
Cabinet Secretary

Lori Wrotenbery
Director
Oil Conservation Division

August 14, 2000

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT NO. 5051-3471

Mr. Samuel Small
Amerada Hess Corporation
P.O. Box 840
Seminole, Texas 79360

RE: W.P. BYRD TANK BATTERY

Dear Mr. Small:

The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has reviewed Amerada Hess Corporation's (AHC) June 1, 2000 "GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATION W.P. BYRD BATTERY, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO". This document requests information related to the OCD's sampling of ground water from a well at the Byrd Ranch southwest of Monument, New Mexico.

In response to your correspondence, below you will find the information requested:

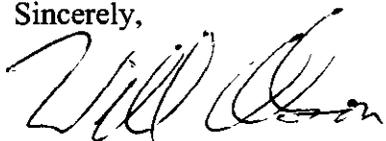
1. The water well that the OCD sampled was located in a well house building at Mr. Byrd's ranch residence approximately 100-150 yards southeast of the W.P. Byrd Tank Battery. I would suggest that you contact Mr. Byrd if you would like to see the location of this well
2. The depth to water in the well was 29.02 feet from the top of the casing and the total depth of the well was 46.45 feet.
3. The well is denoted as Red Byrd #1 on the laboratory analytical sample sheets. The sample analysis labeled Raymond Byrd is a water sample from a different location on the ranch and not related to the W.P. Byrd Tank Battery site.
4. The OCD did not sample the water well north of the tank Battery.

5. The OCD did not note any other visible sources in the direct vicinity of the Red Byrd #1 well. The OCD did observe that AHC's W.P. Tank Battery was directly upgradient of the Red Byrd #1 well and that there is visible evidence of past spills on the ground surface around the tank battery. In addition, Mr. Byrd stated that there were formerly 2 unlined pits located at the tank battery. Based on this information, the OCD did not request a work plan from any other operator.

As stated in the OCD's May 22, 2000 correspondence, the OCD requires that AHC submit a work plan to investigate the extent of contamination related to AHC's W.P. Byrd Lease Tank Battery. Please submit the work plan to the OCD Santa Fe Office by September 15, 2000 with a copy provided to the OCD Hobbs District Office.

If you have any questions, please call me at (505) 827-7154.

Sincerely,



William C. Olson
Hydrologist
Environmental Bureau

xc: Chris Williams, OCD Hobbs District Office
J.R. Byrd

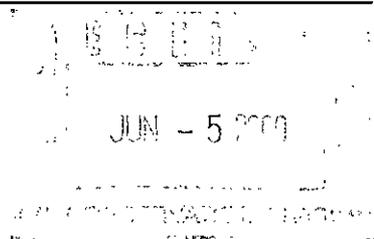
AMERADA HESS CORPORATION

SAMUEL W. SMALL, PE
OFFICE 915/758-6741
FAX 915/758-6768

P.O. BOX 840
SEMINOLE, TEXAS 79360
915/758-6700

June 1, 2000

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
Z 437 801 991



Mr. William C. Olson
Oil Conservation Division
2040 South Pacheco St.
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

RE: **Groundwater Investigation**
W.P. Byrd Battery
Lea County, New Mexico

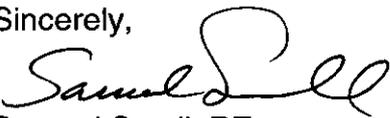
Dear Mr. Olson:

In response to your letter of May 22, 2000, before a work plan can be prepared, Amerada Hess Corporation (AHC) needs to know the location of the water well(s) which were sampled, particularly with respect to the subject battery, and the depth to the surface of the water in the well(s). The test data you supplied indicates that two wells were sampled. If so, please indicate which well was contaminated when referencing the locations. When I visited the battery site recently, an AHC Lease Operator directed me to a water well Mr. Byrd had cause to drill a number of years ago. The well is located immediately north of the battery, approximately 50 yards. Was this well sampled? The L.O. indicated that it was 'salty' at the time it was completed and never used.

AHC would also like to know if any other potential contamination sources were identified by the OCD and if the operators of the sources were notified and requested to supply the OCD with a work plan. A cooperative effort in evaluating the problem might be more beneficial than each operator 'going-it-alone'.

Upon receipt of the above information, ACH will evaluate the situation and advise the OCD of the Company's intentions.

Sincerely,


Samuel Small, PE
Environmental Coordinator

Xc: Houston Environmental File
PBU Environmental File
Monument File