

3R - 279

**GENERAL
CORRESPONDENCE**

YEAR(S):

1993

MERIDIAN OIL

Bob RLU
f. 21
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION
RECEIVED

February 10, 1993
93 FEB 22 10 10 39

New Mexico Hazardous and Radioactive Bureau
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502
ATTN: Mr. E. Horst

RE: Corbin State Release and Cleanup

Dear Mr. Horst:

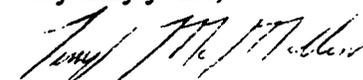
On February 7, 1993, a Meridian Oil employee discovered that the Corbin State #2 well site had been vandalized by gun fire. The vandalism resulted in damaging a 180 gallon chemical tank containing paraffin solvent, Tretolite PA00103F, and the associated chemical tank's controller equipment. The damage caused an electronic malfunction, which in turn allowed produced fluids(oil) to flow back from the well into the chemical tank through open controller valves. The produced fluid mixed with the Tretolite chemical in the tank and eventually overflowed the tank through the tank vent system. The resulting spill was estimated to contain 150 gallons of PA00103F chemical and five barrels or 210 gallons of crude oil.

At this point, Meridian feels this is an exempt waste under the RCRA petroleum exclusion and does not require cleanup and disposal under the State of New Mexico's Hazardous Waste rules. The waste should be handled under the jurisdiction of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division(OCD). Meridian will treat this waste as an oil field waste and fulfill the requirements for proper disposal. Our intent is to leave the waste on location in the constructed lined and bermed containment area, protecting the surrounding area from any potential migration of residual contaminants. The containment area has been fenced protecting human and animal exposure. The well is located in open, isolated country, not in the vicinity of housing and normal public travel routes. At this point Meridian will evaluate treatment and disposal options and with concurrence from the NMOCD, begin such process.

Basically, I have restated issues and conclusions we discussed by telephone on Tuesday, February 9, 1993. Meridian wants to be in compliance first and if for some reason you no longer see the situation as stated above as being the correct way of handling this waste, please notify Meridian immediately. I have discussed this issue with the NMOCD office in Hobbs, NM. and Mr. Jerry Sexton will concur with your final determination as to the waste status.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please call me at 915/688-6975.

Very truly yours,



Terry McMillin
Safety/Environmental Supervisor