

2R - 42

**GENERAL
CORRESPONDENCE**

YEAR(S):
1995-1994

Bill Olson

From: Bill Olson
To: Tim Gumm
Cc: Ray Smith
Subject: Yates Stinking Draw
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 1995 3:17PM
Priority: High

Attached you will find a draft approval letter for Yates investigation report on the recent Stinking Draw spill. Please give me any written technical comments by 3:00 pm on 3/25/95. Thanks!

< <File Attachment: SPILL1.APR> >

Bill Olson

From: Tim Gumm
Date sent: Wednesday, March 22, 1995 3:37PM
To: Bill Olson
Subject: Registered: Tim Gumm

Your message

To: Tim Gumm
Subject: Yates Stinking Draw
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 1995 3:17PM
was accessed on
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 1995 3:37PM

Bill Olson

From: Ray Smith
Date sent: Monday, March 27, 1995 8:30AM
To: Bill Olson
Subject: Registered: Ray Smith

Your message

To: Ray Smith
Subject: Yates Stinking Draw
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 1995 3:17PM
was accessed on
Date: Monday, March 27, 1995 8:30AM

MARTIN YATES, III
1912 - 1985
FRANK W. YATES
1936 - 1986



105 SOUTH FOURTH STREET
ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO 88210
TELEPHONE (505) 748-1471

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION
RECEIVED

65 FEB 13 AM 8 52

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CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
JOHN A. YATES
PRESIDENT
PEYTON YATES
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
RANDY G. PATTERSON
SECRETARY
DENNIS G. KINSEY
TREASURER

January 31, 1995

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FEB 06 1995

Mr. Tim Gum
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division
P.O. Drawer DD
Artesia, NM 88210

Environmental Bureau
Oil Conservation Division

Dear Tim:

Attached please find our final report on the Stinking Draw wastewater releases from the produced water pipeline that occurred in November and December of 1994.

The field investigation conducted December 1 determined that only limited BTEX soil contamination existed beneath the site, but two zones of relatively high concentrations were found at 24 and 37 feet. Of greater importance, no groundwater saturation was found to a depth of 40 feet except for a thin (<6 in.) zone of perched water at about 20 feet which may be residual spill moisture.

An examination of available hydrologic records shows the groundwater potentiometric surface in the area to be at an approximate depth of 220 to 230 feet. Groundwater beneath the site is contained in a limestone member of the Chalk Bluff formation and has been documented to exhibit artesian properties because of the presence of poorly transmissive overlying rocks. Water quality sampling of an unimpacted downstream water pool and a downgradient windmill shows strong differences in the chemical composition of these two waters which supports the conclusion that surface runoff is hydrologically isolated from deeper water bearing zones in the vicinity of the site.

The investigation concluded that because of the lack of near-surface groundwater and poorly transmissive intervening rock, further remediation of soils would not provide any additional protection for groundwater and therefore, is unnecessary.

As discussed in our meeting last week, Yates has instituted additional measures to minimize recurrence of pipeline failures. We intend to keep you informed of the progress of these efforts.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact me at 748-4187.

Sincerely,


Paul Ragsdale
Operations Engineer

PR/sj

CC: (W/Report) Bill Olson, NMOCD, Santa Fe

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REPORT OF UNDESIRABLE EVENT

On November 7, 1994, advised Mr. Dick Manus with the Bureau of Land Management in Carlsbad, New Mexico, and Mr. Tim Gumm with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division in Artesia, New Mexico, that a leak has occurred in the 8" water line that passes through Stinking Draw. Water chlorides are in the range of 1500 to 3000 ppm. Estimated loss has now been calculated at 18000 barrels of water.

Engineering analysis indicated the 8" plastic line failed due to subsidence. The replacement line will be run inside of a 12" steel conductor to prevent a reoccurrence.

The line has been repaired and soil samples and remediation efforts are underway in concert with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division.

Additional data will be forthcoming as it is accumulated. We expect the work to be completed within ninety (90) days.

Mike Slater, Operations Manager
November 15, 1994

cc: NMOCD - Artesia