

MEMORANDUM

To: Mark E. Weidler, Secretary, NMED *MW*

Through: Ed Kelley, Ph.D, Director, WWMD, NMED *Ed*

Through: Benito Garcia, Bureau Chief, HRMB/NMED

Through: Robert "Stu" Dinwiddie, RCRA Permits Management Program Manager, HRMB

Through: Jerry Bober, Supervisor, HRMB *JB*

From: Cornelius Amindyas, Environmental Specialist, HRMB *Amindyas*

Subject: History of Rinchem Company's Old Property in Albuquerque *Albuquerque*

Date: June 12, 1998

Brief History of the Former Rinchem Site in Albuquerque

- The former Rinchem Company Inc. (RCI) site at 5001 Edith Boulevard N.E, Albuquerque was occupied and operated as a chemical transfer and storage facility between 1979 and 1993. Prior to 1979 this location was occupied by electronic assembly and hydraulics industrial companies. RCI moved to its new (and present) site at 6133 Edith Blvd. NE in 1983.
- In 1983, RCI submitted a closure plan to the EPA, because it did not want the site permitted.
- In 1983 and 1984 the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) conducted an assessment of the subject site and found that trichloroethylene (TCE), perchloroethylene (PCE), acetone, methyl isobutyl ketone and other organic contaminants were in the soil and ground water samples. Based upon the analytical data the old RCI property was proposed for inclusion on the National Priority List (NPL).
- In 1988 NMED conducted another investigation to evaluate 5 monitoring wells that it installed and found that TCE and PCE exceeded federal drinking water standards. TCE also exceeded the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission ground water standards.
- In 1992, RCI conducted voluntary remedial investigation and continued to monitor ground water in the surrounding municipal water supply wells. Chlorinated solvents were not detected in soil samples taken in the first 27 feet below the surface, in June 1995.
- The EPA used the maximum concentrations of TCE and PCE in soil to calculate the excess cancer risk from exposure to contamination at the site. The EPA determined that the risk from ground water contamination associated the old RCI site falls within the acceptable risk range prescribed in the National Contingency. The EPA is in the process of removing the site from the list of sites proposed for inclusion on the NPL.
- Currently, the NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau is sampling ground water from the old RCI property to find out the extent of soil and ground water contamination there.