



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

Barbara

AUG 13 1996

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED #Z 699 154 977

Mr. Michael K. O'Donnell
Project Manager
Environment, Health & Safety
General Electric Company
Building 2, Room B-33
1 River Road,
Schenectady, New York 12345



Dear Mr. O'Donnell:

Pursuant to Section VII of the Consent Decree (Civil Action Number 87-1073-jb) between the United States and General Electric (GE) Company, EPA is directing GE to perform investigations and closure actions at the GE Apparatus Service Shop (EPA ID Number NMD047140256) at McLeod Road (Facility) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. These actions are necessary to protect human health and the environment. A potential threat to human health and the environment exists due to the proximity of municipal drinking water wells to the Facility, and these actions must be taken to address this threat.

The required actions, described herein, were discussed with GE during a meeting on February 2, 1996, at the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) office in Albuquerque, and during three telephone discussions held between July 30, 1996, and August 2, 1996. The required actions include the following six elements: (1) soil gas sampling, (2) ground water sampling, (3) closure of Drywell Numbers 1 and 2, (4) modification of the Risk Assessment, (5) recordation of deed notification, and (6) modification of the Corrective Measures Study (CMS) Report to consider any changes in the nature and extent of contamination, and/or required corrective action, based on new sampling results. The actions are required to address the concerns as outlined below.

1. A soil gas sampling program is necessary to determine the extent of the unsaturated zone vapor phase contamination. The presence of volatile organic compounds in the soil matrix indicates the possible presence of a vapor plume, which may extend beyond the boundaries of contamination defined by previous sampling activities. Contamination of soil gas with chlorinated solvents and other organic compounds has

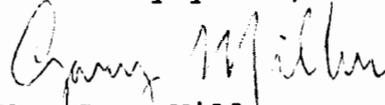
been found to be significant at other Albuquerque area hazardous waste sites. The vapor phase may act as a continuing source of hazardous waste contamination, which may have an adverse impact on ground water. The soil gas testing program will provide data required to support a decision on the need for corrective action in the unsaturated zone.

2. Confirmatory ground water sampling of the four existing ground water monitoring wells is necessary to provide current information on ground water quality, and verify that hazardous constituents have not reached the aquifer. The aquifer provides drinking water for the City of Albuquerque. The closest City water wells are Vol Andia 1 and 5, which are 1000 feet and 2000 feet, respectively, southwest of the Facility.
3. Removal of the sludge, drywell structure, and surrounding contaminated soil from both drywells is necessary to prevent this material from acting as a continuing source of hazardous waste contamination. Hazardous waste constituents remaining after closure of the drywells, including any unsaturated zone soil gas contamination, will be addressed by the final remedy selected for the Facility.
4. A modification of the Risk Assessment is necessary to accurately reflect potential future uses of the site. The current Risk Assessment utilizes a one-hour chronic industrial exposure scenario for soil contamination based on GE's past activities at the site. Since any future owner or operator activities may result in increased exposures, the chronic industrial scenario of the Risk Assessment should use an exposure frequency (EF) based on an eight hour work day (OSWER Directive 9285.603, "Standard Default Exposure Factors"). In addition, it may be necessary to revise the Risk Assessment to evaluate the ground water pathway if ground water contamination is found, or if soil gas sampling indicates an extensive soil gas contamination plume, which may increase the risk of ground water contamination.
5. A deed notification is necessary to limit the site to industrial uses in the future, in accordance with the Risk Assessment, and to reflect the continued presence of hazardous wastes at the Facility.

GE shall undertake and complete the above actions, in accordance with the Consent Decree, and the requirements and schedule in the enclosed Scope of Work for Investigations and Closure Actions.

If you have any questions or wish to arrange a meeting regarding this matter, I may be contacted at (214) 665-8318. Should you have questions of a legal nature, please direct your counsel to contact Ms. Nelly Rocha at (214) 665-8029.

Sincerely yours,



M. Gary Miller
Project Coordinator
Technical Section (6EN-HX)
Hazardous Waste Enforcement Branch

Enclosure

cc: Benito Garcia, NMED
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