



GEAPP2004



March 31, 2004

Mr. Robert N. Wilkinson
Environmental Scientist
Hazardous Waste Enforcement Branch
United States Environmental Protection Agency
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202

SUBJECT: Monthly Progress Report – March 2004
Former GE Albuquerque Apparatus Inspection & Repair Service Center
4420 McLeod Road, North East, Albuquerque, New Mexico
General Electric Consent Decree, Civil Action No. 87-1073-jb

Dear Mr. Wilkinson:

On behalf of GE Energy (GE), URS Corporation (URS) hereby submits this Monthly Status report for the above-referenced facility. In July 2001, GE, USEPA and NMED entered into discussions following a period of reduced activity regarding the site. As a result of these discussions URS, on behalf of GE, has since prepared and submitted a revised document entitled *Revised Closure Plan, Final Corrective Measure Study Report, Preliminary Corrective Measure Implementation Work Plan (Work Plan)* for the Former Apparatus Service Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico on August 16, 2002. This document was prepared at the direction of the USEPA and NMED to replace previously prepared documents that had not been acted upon by the agencies.

On May 20, 2003, GE submitted Final Revisions to the Work Plan, which addressed USEPA's and NMED's comments on previous submittals. On August 11, 2003, GE received a letter, dated August 5, 2003, from USEPA that indicated the May 20, 2003 Final Revisions to the Work Plan met the USEPA's and NMED's requirements in USEPA's conditional approval letter, dated January 10, 2003. The August 5, 2003 letter also stated that NMED would provide their response in a separate letter. On December 9, 2003, GE received a hard copy of the Final Decision and Response to Comments (FDRC) document from USEPA. On December 22, 2003, representatives of GE and URS participated in a telephone conference with representatives of USEPA (Mr. Robert Wilkinson and Ms. Rita Ware) and NMED (Mr. Will Moats) to resolve minor discrepancies between the FDRC and previous correspondence from USEPA. On January 2, 2004, GE received a letter from NMED that approved the Final Revisions to the Work Plan.

Drilling activities were initiated at the site on February 3, 2004. Subsurface soil samples were collected at each boring location at the prescribed depths and in accordance with the procedures stated in the USEPA and NMED-approved Work Plan, and submitted on a daily basis to Severn Trent Laboratories (STL) for the analysis of PCBs by EPA Method 8082. Based on preliminary lab results, three additional soil borings were performed at the site to further define the limits of excavation.

Ms. Rita Ware and Mr. Robert Wilkinson of the USEPA performed a site inspection on February 5, 2004. It is our understanding that USEPA was satisfied with site work and did not express any concerns regarding site work prior to departure from the site at completion of the USEPA site visit.

The recent activities that have transpired since the preceding monthly progress report are:

URS Corporation
28 Corporate Drive, Suite 200
Clifton Park, NY 12065
Tel: 518.688.0015
Fax: 518.688.0022

- On March 9, 2004, URS notified the USEPA and NMED via electronic mail that based on the review of the soil analytical lab results, approximately 22 additional soil borings would be installed at the site to further define the limits of planned excavation. The USEPA and NMED were provided with a figure that depicted the proposed boring locations, as well as a table that listed the anticipated number soil samples and their sample depth.
- As the deadline for the completion of the pre-implementation investigation was March 18, 2004, URS requested a 30-day extension to April 17, 2004 to complete the additional soil sampling, evaluate the lab data, and finalize the layout of the planned excavation area. URS was notified by the USEPA via electronic mail on March 15, 2004 that the 30-day extension request had been approved. A figure showing the revised project schedule is attached.
- URS collected both surface soil (0.5 to 1 foot) and subsurface soil samples during the period of March 10-12, 2004 to further define the lateral and vertical extent of the PCB impacts in select areas of the site and provide additional data in relation to the planned soil excavation activities during the corrective action effort. As noted on Table 1, URS advanced a total of 23 additional soil borings and collected 74 additional soil samples for laboratory analysis. The location of the 23 additional soil borings, which are illustrated on Figure 1, were chosen based on the results of soil analytical results from the pre-implementation investigation.
- During the advancement of soil boring 5069, which is on the concrete pad south of the sheet metal building, URS encountered a subsurface void that extended from a depth of approximately 2.5 feet below ground surface (bgs) to a depth 9 feet bgs. The subsurface void is round, about 6 feet in diameter, 8 feet deep and cribbed with loose or lightly mortared cinder block. The construction of the void appears similar to that of our understanding of dry wells. URS was able to obtain representative samples of the soils present at the base of the void using the split-spoon sampler. URS collected soil samples at one-foot increments down to a depth of 13 feet bgs. The initial sample, which was collected at a depth of 9 to 10 feet bgs, was observed to consist of dark soil that was slightly odoriferous. The soil sample collected at 10 to 11 feet bgs displayed a transitioning into clean-appearing sand, while the soil samples collected from 11 to 13 feet bgs were characterized as undisturbed native soil. The soil samples collected at the 9 to 10 foot bgs interval and the 11 to 13 foot bgs interval were submitted for the laboratory analysis of PCBs and VOCs.
- URS advanced an additional boring (designated as boring 5073) approximately 6 to 7 feet to the east of the above referenced boring (5069) to delineate the lateral soil quality and the extent of the subsurface void area to the east. The subsurface void was not present at boring 5073, and URS collected soil samples at depths of 5, 10, and 15 feet bgs. These samples were submitted for the laboratory analysis of PCBs and VOCs.
- At boring location 5070, which is 5 feet south of boring 5069 where the subsurface void was detected, URS encountered dark, slightly odoriferous soil immediately underneath the 4-inch thick concrete pad. The layer of dark, slightly odoriferous soil extended to a depth of approximately 2.5 feet bgs. URS collected a representative soil sample from this depth interval for the analysis of PCBs and VOCs. Boring 5070 was advanced to a final depth of 10 feet bgs, with representative soil samples collected at the 5, 8, and 10-foot bgs intervals. These samples were submitted for the analysis of PCBs.

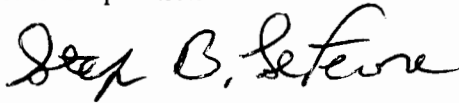
- URS is in the process of reviewing the lab data as it becomes available to evaluate whether additional borings are needed to further define the limits of excavation at the site. We will advise the Department if additional investigation/sampling requirements may jeopardize the currently established April 17, 2004 date for completion of pre-excavation sampling activities.

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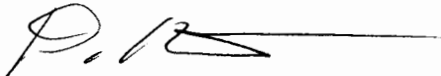
URS will continue to submit monthly status reports to the USEPA and NMED for this project. More detailed information or copies of daily reports, inspection reports, laboratory/monitoring data, etc., are available for review at any time upon request by either the USEPA or NMED. Please contact either Edward F. Jamison, P.G., of GE at (518) 385-7979 or the undersigned at (518) 688-0015 if you have any questions or concerns regarding this information.

Very truly yours,

URS Corporation



Stephen B. Le Fevre, P.G. C.P.G.
Senior Geologist
Senior Project Manager



Don Porterfield, P.E.
Project Director

Attachments: Revised Corrective Measure Implementation Schedule
Table 1 – Second Round Soil Boring Locations and Sample Depths
Figure 1 – Pre-Implementation Soil Boring Locations

cc: Edward F. Jamison, GE – Schenectady, New York
Rita Ware – USEPA
John Kieling – NM Environment Department
Carolyn Cooper – NM Environment Department
Clay Kilmer, URS - Albuquerque