



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 377TH AIR BASE WING (AFMC)

18 JUL 1994

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Smith*

377 ABW/EMR
2000 Wyoming Blvd SE
Kirtland AFB NM 87117-5659

Ms. Nancy Morlock, Environmental Engineer
RCRA Permits Branch
U.S. EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Ave, Ste 1200
Dallas TX 75202-2733

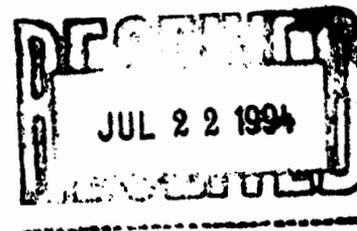
Dear Ms. Morlock

I need to update you on some problems we've encountered at two Stage 2B sites--oil/water separators ST-210 and ST-219. Using the geoprobe, our RFI contractor, Halliburton NUS (HNUS), conducted field investigations at ST-219 on 19-20 April and at ST-210 on 15 June, and returned to ST-219 on 16-17 June to extend two borings to the maximum possible depth.

At one ST-210 boring, the geoprobe attained a depth of 62 feet. Field screening indicated minor contamination; contamination was not noted in the other borings.

Halliburton advanced the first geoprobe borings at ST-219 to depths ranging from 16 to 25 feet. Field screening showed contamination at all five borings. When the geoprobe returned for the second time, HNUS extended one boring depth to 107 feet. Field screening indicated contaminated soil at this depth.

In conjunction with HNUS, we decided we required a larger, hollow-stem auger drill rig to continue investigations at these sites. On 5 and 6 July, HNUS used a hollow-stem auger at ST-210 and drilled a borehole to a depth of 153 feet. Due to the collapse of coarse material zones into the auger flights, HNUS could not extend the boring and could not retrieve 120 feet of drill steel, which they abandoned in the hole. Field screening indicated the presence of minor contamination. Contamination levels appeared to substantially fluctuate at varying depths from the surface to 153 feet, indicating an irregular contaminant migration and retention through lenses of various permeabilities.



On 11 July, HNUS moved the hollow-stem auger to ST-219 after they failed to retrieve the steel at ST-210 and replacements were delivered. They successfully extended one hollow-stem auger boring to 150 feet. Once again, however, drilling was extremely difficult and the flight augers were damaged during removal. Field screening indicated minor contamination at 150 feet even though HNUS encountered lenses of heavily contaminated soil between 50 and 75 feet.

We believe site contamination may extend below 150 feet; however, the hollow-stem flight auger won't penetrate below that depth to confirm. We intend to continue site characterization at these sites; however, we require a much larger air rotary or mud rotary drill rig. Due to time and funding restraints, we can't schedule the additional work until FY95. In the interim, we plan to continue using the hollow-stem flight auger to obtain as much site characterization as possible at these two sites. The contractor will locate the additional borings to define the lateral extend of the contamination detected to date more effectively. We will include this information in the Stage 2B RFI report due to your office on 8 December 1994.

We will continue to update you on the status of the additional site characterization activities planned for these two sites. For your information, we have three production wells within 2,000 feet of these sites; to date, these wells show no contamination. The closest City of Albuquerque well is located approximately 2 miles northwest of these sites.

Please call me at (505) 846-2773/0053 if you have any questions.

Sincerely



CHRISTOPHER B. DeWITT, R.P.G.
Acting Chief, Restoration Branch
Environmental Management Division

cc:

NMED-HRMB (Mr. B. Garcia)
HNUS (Mr. Clark, Mr. Walter)
AFCEE/ESR (Mr. Arnold)
377 ABW/EMX