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Los Alamos

NATIONAL LABORATORY

memorandum

*Chemical Science and Technology
Responsible Chemistry for America*

Environmental Restoration Project/CST-7
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

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Phone/FAX: 667-6080, 667-4632
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Date: November 4, 2997

Subject: Original Government Installed Underground Gasoline Tanks At 400 Trinity Drive. Solid Waste Management Unit 0-031 (a)

On June 15, 1967, the Zia Company leased the government service station at 4th Street and Trinity Drive to Bennie A. Moore. Mr. Moore repaired and serviced vehicles at this site and also operated a Mobile gasoline station. It was named Moore's Motors. On November 1, 1968, the United States Government sold this property to Philip and Bess Giber whose residence was Trumbell County, Ohio. The official description of the property is Tract S, Eastern Area No. 2. On November 26, 1968, Philip and Bess Giber transferred the title of Tract S, Eastern Area No. 2, along with three other properties here in Los Alamos County from their name to the ARIES COMPANY, INC., 24 S. STATE STREET GIRARD, OHIO. Mr. Giber was president of the Aries Company. This property transfer was recorded at the Los Alamos County Clerk's Office December 18, 1968. Mr. Moore then leased the property from the Aries Company and continued to operate Moore's Motors. On May 1, 1974 the Aries Company sold Tract S, Eastern Area No. 2., to WATERCHRIS, INC. (ROBERT WATERMAN). See attachments 1A, 1B, 1C for those property transactions.

After Mr. Waterman bought the property he continued to operate a filling station. He also developed the property into what is now the Hilltop House Hotel. The present street address is 400 Trinity Drive.

In 1988-1989 Mr. Waterman moved the filling station from its' original location on the east side of the Hilltop House Hotel to the north side of the building bordering Central Avenue. When this move was made he installed three new underground fiberglass gasoline tanks at the northwest corner of the building. He also removed two underground gasoline tanks that he stated Bennie Moore had installed. These two tanks were in the parking area north of the original government installed gasoline pump islands and south of Central Avenue. This parking area could also be described as immediately north of what is now the main entrance and lobby of the Hilltop House Hotel and south of Central Avenue. See the attached November 19, 1991 memorandum written by James Aldrich concerning his telephone interview with Mr. Waterman. Attachment No. 2.

I talked by telephone to Mr. Aldrich. He stated that before Los Alamos County started the landscaping project in the area between the east boundary of the Hilltop House Hotel and the west curb and gutter of 4th Street in the fall of 1992, he made a survey to determine if there were any underground fuel tanks in that area. He also surveyed the parking lot north of the main entrance and lobby of the Hilltop House Hotel and south of Central Avenue. Ground Penetrating RADAR equipment and a Magnetometer were used. The results were negative in both areas.

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I personally interviewed Mr. Gerald Huber. Mr. Huber, now retired, was formerly a Zia Company supervisor who had charge of scheduling all fuel deliveries to power plants, steam plants, filling stations, etc. that were operated by the Zia Company. I showed him drawing Eng-C48493. This drawing shows Tract S, Eastern Area No. 2 including the plot plan of the original Zia Company operated service station. Mr. Huber indicated on the drawing the approximate location of the two government installed underground gasoline tanks. He explained that the commercial fuel delivery tankers would turn into the station from Central Avenue, unload their gasoline into the underground tanks, drive through the pump island areas and exit onto Trinity Drive. He does not remember the volume of the tanks. Neither Mr. Huber nor I remember that the underground tanks were removed when the station was operated by the Zia Company or by Bennie Moore. See drawings Eng-C48493, Attachment No. 3.

It is reasonable to assume that Mr. Moore would need the building, the pump islands, the pumps and the underground fuel storage tanks to operate a commercial gasoline service station. It is also reasonable to assume that Mr. Moore, as a lessee, would not be interested in installing new underground tanks or removing the original underground tanks. It is my opinion that when Mr. Waterman bought the service station from Mr. Giber in May of 1974, that the underground fuel tanks in place at that time were the original tanks. I also believe that when Mr. Waterman in 1988-1989, moved the gasoline service station from the east side of the Hilltop House Hotel to the north side of the building and removed two underground tanks from the north parking area that these two tanks were the original tanks. My conjecture is supported because the 1992 survey conducted by Mr. Aldrich failed to find any buried tanks.

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