

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: File

FROM: Teri Davis, Technical Program

THROUGH: Ed Horst, Program Manager  
Steve Alexander, Technical Supervisor

DATE: December 2, 1992

SUBJECT: Interview with reporter from Albuquerque Tribune concerning status of PNM-Person Station RCRA site.

An interview with Tony Davis of the Albuquerque Tribune was conducted on December 2, 1992 concerning the status of the RCRA PNM- Person Station site. The following employees of the Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau (HRMB) were present (Steve Alexander -Technical Supervisor, Teri Davis - Technical Section and Anna Walker - Management Analysis). The following communications were made:

1) It was stated that the contaminates of concern at the Person Station organic hydrocarbon plume are: 1,1,1 Trichloroethane (TCA), 1,1 Dichloroethylene (DCE) and Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and their Health-Based Action levels are respectively: 60 ppb, 5 ppb and 5 ppb. It was explained that the source for these constituents are believed to be from a waste oil tank located on the north side of the Person Station property. This conclusion was reached because waste oil was dumped in an open-ended tank from late 1978-1983. An analysis of the waste oil in 1983 revealed TCA and PCE. It was also stated that DCE is a hydrolysis product of TCA.

2) The locations of the monitoring wells as of October 1992 and PNM production wells was shown on a map generated by PNM. The well design (screen length) was explained. A hand drawn cross-section was displayed in order to show the location of the plume in relation to the monitoring system. It was also stated that the known extent of contamination at this time is approximately 2000 feet downgradient (east-southeast) from the waste oil tank. This is known by the results from sampling a monitor well installed last month on Ethicon property which is located across I-25 from Person Station. The maximum concentrations were 14 ppb DCE and 13 ppb PCE in the Ethicon monitoring well. It was shown that concentrations have increased with time in several monitor wells and stated that PNM is currently directed to provide the State with trend analysis data.

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3) It was stated that a shallow plume exists in only the upper 10 feet of the aquifer and that contamination was discovered in a deeper zone of the aquifer by sampling PNM production well #6 during a State conducted Comprehensive Ground Water Monitoring Evaluation in August 1992. The reason for sampling this well was because a vertical gradient exists at the source. The depth to groundwater ranges from 125 feet at the waste oil tank location to 200 feet at production well #6. The screen interval for production well #6 is from 500 feet below ground-level to 800 feet below ground-level. The maximum contaminant levels found in Production well #6 are 1.6 DCE and 1.3 PCE.

4) It was stated that once contamination was found in production well #6 the State ordered production wells #4 and #3 to be sampled; both of which are downgradient of the waste oil tank. Maximum contaminate levels found in Production well #3 are 13 ppb PCE, 16 ppb DCE and 2.8 ppb TCA.

5) It was stated that currently the State and PNM are assessing the vertical and horizontal extent of the plume migration. This assessment phase (Phase I) is being driven by a Corrective Action Directive (CAD) which is mandated from a Compliance Order. Phase II of the CAD is the remediation phase of the plume.