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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Marcy Leavitt, Chief, Ground Water Quality Bureau
Jim Piatt, Chief, Surface Water Quality Bureau

FROM: *BJG* Benito Garcia, Chief, Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau

SUBJECT: Notification of modification of RCRA permit (HSPA module) for Philips Semiconductors

DATE: February 27, 1996

This memorandum is to inform you that the Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau (HRMB) is considering modification to the HSPA module of the RCRA permit for Philips Semiconductors (formerly Signetics) to add an identified Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU), the old Coronado Municipal Landfill. Philips is located along I-25 below Tramway Boulevard in northeast Albuquerque.

This action is a carry-over action based on New Mexico Corrective Action authorization. EPA has prepared the modification and completed the accompanying public participation requirements. Because the State received authority for portions of the Corrective Action program last month, the permit modification will be issued by NMED.

Justification. This action is necessary because EPA identified the abandoned Coronado Municipal Landfill, partially located on the Philips site, as a SWMU in 1993. Three of the four groundwater monitoring wells installed by Philips consistently show concentrations of tetrachloroethene (PCE) above 5 ppb, or above the federal MCL of .005 mg/L. In addition, concentrations of 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane are consistently above 10 ppb, or above the MCL of 0.01 mg/L. Other contaminants are unknown currently. Extent and rate of contamination are also not known at present.

The permit modification will require site characterization and clean-up of the contamination, including any continuing source.

Interested parties. HRMB plans to meet with Philips as soon as possible to discuss issuance of the permit modification. HRMB also has begun consultation with the City of Albuquerque regarding its planned activities at the Coronado Landfill, since the City has begun as independent investigation and clean-up of all six of its old landfills in northeast Albuquerque.

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To date, HRMB personnel have contacted the following State personnel:

Steve Cary (Office of Natural Resources Trustee) 2/26/96: Mr. Cary remembered very little about any previous activities at the facility or the Coronado Landfill. When informed of currently detected levels of PCE in groundwater, he indicated that further investigation was appropriate.

Maura Hanning (Ground Water Quality Bureau, Superfund Section) 2/26/96: Ms. Hanning referred HRMB to Ms. Robin Brown. Ms. Brown indicated the Superfund investigation file contained only a brief site strategy recommendation that deferred action on this site to RCRA.

Dennis McQuillan (Ground Water Quality Bureau, Assessment and Abatement Section) 2/26/96: Mr. McQuillan indicated that the GWQB was investigating Albuquerque's old Los Angeles Landfill but was not doing any work at the Coronado Landfill. Contaminants in groundwater appear to be similar at the two sites.

Timing. At this time, I request that you indicate whether or not your Bureau has an interest in this very important action. If so, by March 1, 1996, please provide HRMB with the type of involvement desired and the name of a contact person in your Bureau. This short time-frame is necessary because a decision on the modification must be in place before April 1, 1996, the expiration date for the permit.

Please contact Stephanie Kruse of my staff at 1561 if you have any questions or comments on this matter.

xc: Ed Kelley, Ph. D., Director, WWMD
Susan McMichael, OGC
Dennis McQuillan, GWQB
Glenn Saums, SWQB
Barbara Hoditschek, HRMB
Ron Kern, HRMB
Dale Conover, HRMB