



PHILIPS

Philips Semiconductors

April 14, 1998

Robert S. (Stu) Dinwiddie, Ph.D., Manager
RCRA Permits Management Program
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
2044A Galisteo St.
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Certified Mail: P 554 324 980

SUBJECT: Request to Reduce Groundwater Sampling Frequency

Dear Mr. Dinwiddie:

On March 18, 1996, NMED/HRMB revised Philips Semiconductors' Hazardous Waste Permit #NMD000709782-1 to include the previously unidentified SWMU #8 Coronado Municipal Landfill and to require an RFI be performed on that SWMU. On March 31, 1996, the Philips' site discontinued operation as a permitted Hazardous Waste Facility and began operation under the 90-day generator regulations. However, the RFI requirements for SWMU #8 remained applicable including quarterly monitoring of existing monitoring wells MW-1, MW-2, MW-3, and MW-4.

On August 19, 1997, Philips requested to reduce sampling frequency from quarterly to annually (see enclosed copy of letter). However, as was stated in the above mentioned letter, we still feel that quarterly sampling does not provide an appropriate benefit for the amount of money being spent. **Therefore, if we do not receive a response from NMED by May 22, 1998, we plan to sample only during April of each year.** If you have any questions, please call our technical contact, Jim Cochran, at (505) 822-7678.

Philips is proud of its proactive commitment to the environment and has even put forth the extra effort of becoming ISO 14001 registered in 1997 (see enclosed press release).

Sincerely,

Peter Yates
Plant Manager

(ENV810)

Enclosure

cc: James Casey, Legal Counsel
James Cochran, EHS Manager
EPA Region VI, P 554 324 981
Environmental File
RFI Compliance Binder



PHILIPS

Philips Semiconductors

August 19, 1997

Robert S. (Stu) Dinwiddie, Ph.D., Manager
RCRA Permits Management Program
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
2044A Galisteo St.
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Certified Mail: P 295 198 835

SUBJECT: Request to Reduce Groundwater Sampling Frequency

Dear Mr. Dinwiddie:

On March 18, 1996, NMED/HRMB revised Philips Semiconductors' Hazardous Waste Permit #NMD000709782-1 to include the previously unidentified SWMU #8 Coronado Municipal Landfill and to require an RFI be performed on that SWMU. On March 31, 1996, the Philips' site discontinued operation as a permitted Hazardous Waste Facility and began operation under the 90-day generator regulations. However, the RFI requirements for SWMU #8 remained applicable including quarterly monitoring of existing monitoring wells MW-1, MW-2, MW-3, and MW-4. At this time, Philips is requesting to reduce sampling frequency from quarterly to annually.

Philips has monitored the above wells for six quarters (in addition to seven years of voluntary monitoring). Philips has also voluntarily monitored three new wells installed by the City of Albuquerque on this site since their installation (three quarters of monitoring). The only organic compound that has been consistently detected is tetrachloroethylene (PCE). See Figure 1 for PCE contamination levels.

PCE has not been used by Philips on this site. Therefore, the assumption has been that the PCE contamination is a result of SWMU #8. (As you are aware, SWMU #8-Coronado Landfill was a City of Albuquerque Landfill operated between 1963 and 1965 and has nothing to do with the current Philips operations.) However, this assumption may be inaccurate. NCLF-2, a City of Albuquerque well located on the northern boundary of the facility, has contamination levels of PCE roughly equivalent to the contamination seen in the middle of the facility. This well could be considered an upgradient well demonstrating that the contamination is actually coming onto the facility from off-site and NOT a result of SWMU #8 as assumed.

The City of Albuquerque is planning to install two more upgradient wells in October. These wells will be located further away from SWMU #8 than NCLF-2 and will be truly "upgradient" wells. If these wells demonstrate that the contamination under the Philips site is coming from off-site, we will be requesting a permit modification to eliminate the need for an RFI of SWMU #8.

Philips Semiconductors
a North American Philips Company
9201 Pan American Freeway, NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113
(505) 822-7000

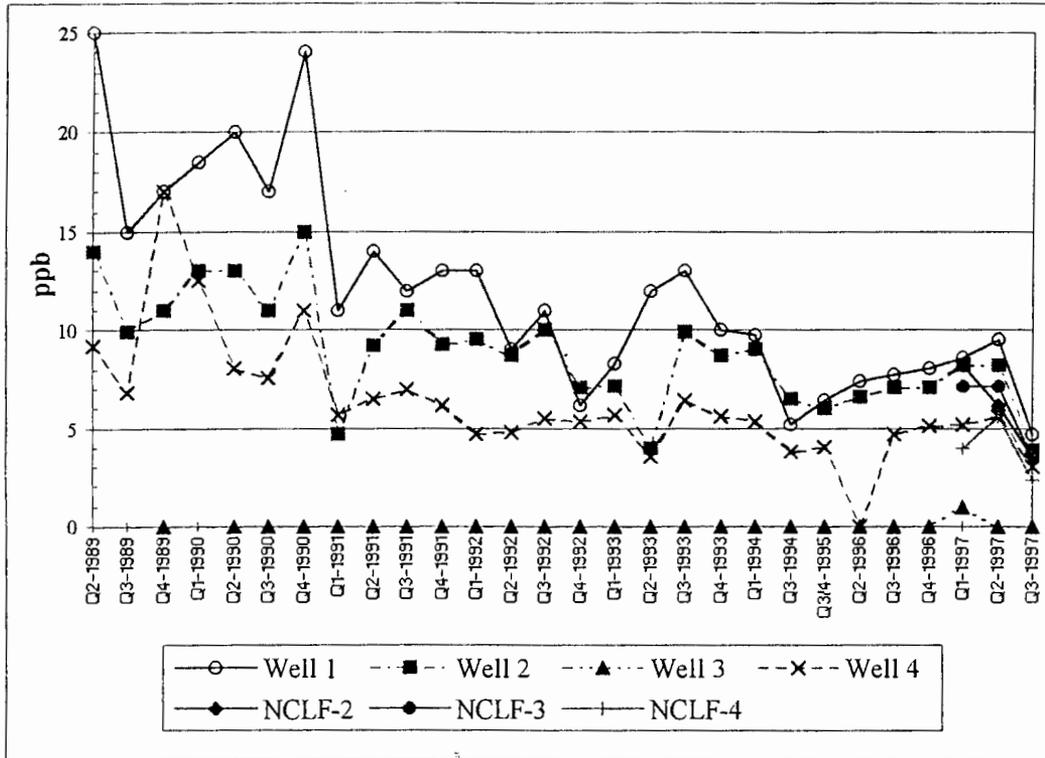


Figure 1: PCE Contamination in PPB

Until such time as the RFI is eliminated or implemented, we are spending approximately \$12,000 each sampling event in addition to labor costs of our own personnel coordinating the effort. Because the levels of PCE have not changed significantly over the past six quarters, we feel that this expenditure is not value-added, thus our request for annual sampling. We would appreciate your prompt decision on this matter. If you have any questions, please call our technical contact, Melanie McKinley, at (505) 858-2781.

Sincerely,

Peter Yates
Plant Manager

cc: James Casey, Legal Counsel
James Cochran, EHS Manager
EPA Region VI
(ENV731)

ALBUQUERQUE PLANT SECURES ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M., Feb. 11, 1998—Philips Semiconductors-Albuquerque recently earned its ISO 14001 certification, placing the facility among the growing ranks of Philips' operations to have met stringent environmental benchmarks established by the International Organization for Standardization.

To achieve ISO 14001 certification, a company must meet strict guidelines including a continuous improvement plan to reduce the effects on the environment of all its manufacturing processes. Independent assessment for ISO 14001 typically takes two to three days, depending on the size of the plant, and usually is followed by a second audit, six months later, to ensure that the environmental systems are still in place. After certification, surveillance assessments are carried out at regular intervals to ensure a company continues to manufacture responsibly. ISO 14001 certification is only valid for three years, when the auditing process must begin again.

"We are delighted with this achievement," said Arthur van der Poel, chief executive officer of Philips Semiconductors. "Obtaining the ISO 14001 standard demonstrates our commitment to the environment and represents international recognition of the efforts of everyone working at our facilities."

With this certification, Philips-Albuquerque became the eleventh of more than 140 semiconductor manufacturing sites in the United States to obtain ISO 14001 registration. At the time of its certification, the Albuquerque plant was one of only 76 entities in the United States to be ISO 14001 registered. It was the first private business in New Mexico to obtain ISO 14001 certification.

The team of Albuquerque employees who led the site's efforts to achieve ISO 14001 certification have won Philips Semiconductors' regional Quality Improvement Competition and will proceed to Rome in April to compete in the international competition.

Three days after the introduction of the ISO 14001 standard in September 1996, Philips Semiconductors was the first company in the world to achieve this certification for its manufacturing plant in Bangkok, Thailand. Since then, Philips Semiconductors' manufacturing plants in the following locations have been awarded ISO 14001 status:

— more —



PHILIPS

ALBUQUERQUE PLANT SECURES ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

Feb. 11, 1998

Page 2

Hamburg, Germany; Stadskanaal, Netherlands; Kaohsiung, Taiwan; Hazel Grove, England; Caen, France; Manila, Philippines; Hong Kong, China; and Southampton, England. The certifications are proof of Philips Semiconductors' global strategy to achieve the certification for all 14 of its plants by the end of 1998.

Philips Electronics NV, Philips Semiconductors' parent company, has established a goal of having all of its manufacturing plants worldwide ISO 14001 registered by the year 2000. Because of its overall commitment to the environment, Philips Electronics recently earned the World Environment Center's Gold Medal. The award will be presented at a formal event in Washington, D.C., on May 29, exactly one week before World Environment Day on June 5.

Philips Semiconductors, Inc., is a subsidiary of Philips Electronics North America and an affiliate of Philips Electronics NV, headquartered in Eindhoven, The Netherlands. The company is one of the 10 largest semiconductor suppliers in the world. Philips Semiconductors' innovations in digital audio, video, and mobile technology position the company as a leader in the consumer, multimedia and wireless communications markets. Sales offices, located in all major markets around the world, are supported by regional customer applications labs. Additional information on Philips Semiconductors can be obtained by accessing its home pages at www.semiconductors.philips.com.

###

For additional information please contact:

Philips Semiconductors-Albuquerque
Kathy Haq
Plant Communications Manager
(505) 858-2999
Kathy.Haq@abq.sc.philips.com

Miller/Shandwick Technologies
Marla Kertzman
(650) 962-9550
Mkertzman@miller.shandwick.com