



GARY E. JOHNSON  
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
Harold Runnels Building  
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Drawer 26110  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0110  
(505) 827-2855  
Fax: (505) 827-2836

Barbara ✓  
Ron K ✓  
File ST Feb/96

MARK E. WEIDLER  
SECRETARY

EDGAR T. THORNTON, III  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

June 6, 1996

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED  
No.

Carol M. Browner  
Administrator  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M. Street, SW (1101)  
Washington, DC 20460

John J. Smith  
President  
Sparton Corporation  
2400 East Ganson Street  
Jackson, MI 49201

Governor Gary E. Johnson  
Capitol Building  
4th Floor  
Santa Fe, NM 87503

Registered Agent  
Sparton Technology, Inc.  
c/o CT Corporation System  
217 West Manhattan Avenue  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Richard D. Mico  
Vice President & General Manager  
Sparton Technology, Inc.  
4901 Rockaway Boulevard, SE  
Rio Rancho, NM 87124-5300

Registered Agent  
Sparton Corporation  
CT Corporation System  
815 Superior Avenue, NE  
Cleveland, OH 44114

Re: Notice of Imminent and Substantial Endangerment Pursuant to  
Section 7002 of RCRA

Dear Administrator Browner and Messrs. Mico and Smith:

This letter is to provide you with formal notice that the New Mexico Environment Department ("NMED") has determined that an imminent and substantial endangerment to health or the environment, within the meaning of section 7002(a)(1)(B) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act ("RCRA"), 42 U.S.C. 6972(a)(1)(B), may exist at or near the Sparton Technology Inc. facility at 9621 Coors Road, NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico (the "Sparton facility"). The endangerment is the result of the past or present handling, storage, treatment, transportation, or disposal of solid or hazardous wastes at the facility.

From approximately 1961 until at least 1983, industrial solvent wastes and metal plating wastes were disposed of at the Sparton facility. These wastes are hazardous and solid wastes under RCRA. The disposed wastes contain trichloroethylene ("TCE"), 1,1,1-trichloromethane, 1,1-dichloroethylene, methylene chloride, and

chromium, as well as other contaminants. The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has promulgated regulations for Maximum Contaminant Levels ("MCL's") for most of these contaminants in public water supplies.

Information we have received demonstrates that hazardous and solid wastes from the Sparton facility have entered soil and groundwater at high concentration levels. Groundwater at the Sparton facility contains contaminants from the above described wastes in amounts far in excess of the MCL's. Groundwater contamination extends horizontally at least 3000 feet beyond the facility property to the west, and downward at least 50 feet (and possibly more) into the aquifer. At the monitoring well located in the main part of the contaminant plume and farthest from the source, TCE concentrations have been detected at 400 times above the health-based MCL standard. Contaminants are rapidly moving laterally at an estimated rate of 100 feet per year, contaminating at least an additional 50 acre-feet of water each year the problem continues unabated. Furthermore, undissolved TCE, which is a dense non-aqueous phase liquid ("DNAPL"), may be penetrating deep into the aquifer, further exacerbating the contamination.

A private water utility is currently supplying its customers with water obtained from wells located two miles west of the Sparton facility. These supply wells are located directly in the path of contaminant plume migrating from the Sparton facility. Because the extent of the plume has not been fully characterized, it is not now known how close the contaminants are to these wells.

The City of Albuquerque (the "City") is facing a potentially critical water shortage in the near future. The City's metropolitan area is rapidly developing, placing increasing demands on the City's finite water resources. Groundwater in the Albuquerque area is used extensively to supply municipal drinking water to more than 500,000 residents. Contamination of this aquifer therefore poses a very serious health and environmental problem which increases in magnitude each year.

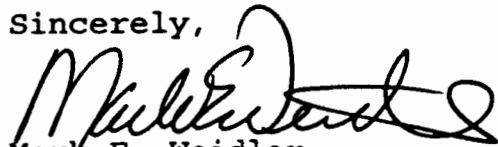
The City has a multi-faceted strategy to provide sustainable water for domestic consumption to its residents. Part of the strategy is to continue to use all available potable ground water in the Albuquerque basin. Since 1982, the City has had plans to utilize the ground water near the Sparton facility to contribute to the future water supply for the rapidly growing northwest portion of the metropolitan area. Before it became contaminated, groundwater in the vicinity of the Sparton facility could be served to residents with minimal treatment. Contamination from the Sparton facility, however, now threatens the City's plans to use the groundwater in this area, both immediately and for the foreseeable future.

Notice of an Imminent and Substantial Endangerment  
June 6, 1996  
Page 3

Another strategy for the City is to enhance the groundwater resource through artificial recharge with clean surface water. Artificial recharge is easiest and most effective in places where there are no impermeable geologic layers between the land surface and water table. Such recharge "windows" are rare in the Albuquerque area, but one exists near the Sparton facility and its contaminant plume. This window will likely be unusable if it becomes contaminated with discharges from the Sparton facility, and the City's ability to enhance the groundwater resource in this area would then be seriously impaired.

For these reasons, the NMED finds that an imminent and substantial endangerment to health and/or the environment may exist due to contamination from the disposal of hazardous and solid wastes at the Sparton facility.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Weidler  
Secretary of Environment

cc: Ed Kelly, Director, Water & Waste Management Division  
Benito Garcia, Hazardous & Radioactive Materials Bureau,  
Bureau Chief  
Dennis McQuillan, Ground Water Quality Bureau  
Ana Marie Ortiz, Assistant General Counsel, Environment  
Department  
Jan Appel, Vice President & General Counsel of Sparton  
Corporation  
Robert E. Gurule, Director, Public Works Department, City of  
Albuquerque  
Sarah Kotchian, Director, Environmental Health Department,  
City of Albuquerque  
Richard Brusuelas, Director, Environmental Health Department,  
Bernalillo County  
Jane N. Saginaw, Regional Administrator, EPA Region 6  
Gary O'Dea, Assistant City Attorney, City of Albuquerque  
Patrick Trujillo, Assistant County Attorney, Bernalillo County  
Evan Pearson, Assistant Regional Counsel, EPA 6  
Charlie DeSaillan, Office of Natural Resource Trustee  
Jim Harris, Thompson and Knight

MEW/AMO:lmr