

12/22/82  
ENTERED

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Thomas E. Baca, M.P.H., Director

December 22, 1982

Scott Nicholson  
EPA-Revion VI  
1201 Elm Street  
Dallas, Texas 75270

Dear Scott:

Oscar Simpson of the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division has brought a couple of items to my attention that might interest you. As you are aware, Plateau Refinery in Bloomfield, N.M. has made requests to have their wastes delisted as has Navajo Refinery in Artesia.

Mr. Simpson has brought to my attention that Plateau has recently cleaned out their oily ponds and deposited approximately eight dump truck loads of sludge in a dry pit east of the refinery. The sludge was then covered. Mr. Simpson has sampled near the Navajo River just down gradient from the sludge disposal pit. His samples contained 18 ppm lead. This would lead me to suspect that the sludge is contaminated with lead and is of a higher concentration than the samples taken by Mr. Simpson.

New Mexico EID proposes to go to the Plateau Refinery during mid-January and take some river, soil and sludge samples. If EPA has an interest in this situation or wishes to be a part of this sampling trip, please contact Ray Sisneros as soon as possible.

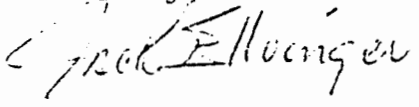
In regards to the Navajo Refinery, Mr. Simpson has identified a sludge pit which receives the bottoms from their tanks, including their TEL tank. To my knowledge Navajo did not include this sludge pit in their notification.

I am aware that Mike Michaud will be coming out early 1983 to do a sampling inspection of the Navajo Refinery. We would like to suggest that this sludge pit be included and that samples taken of the effluent be of the twenty-four hour composite type so as to get a representative sample of this facility which operates on cycles. Mr. Simpson would also like to attend this inspection.

Scott Nicholson  
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If EID can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Jack Ellvinger  
Environmental Scientist  
Hazardous Waste Unit

JE/ps