



STATE OF UTAH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
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ENTERED

March 25, 1983
533-4145

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Executive Director
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State Health Laboratory

Mr. Peter Pache
Hazardous Waste Management Program
Health and Environmental Department
P.O. Box 968, Crown Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

Dear Mr. Pache:

This is to confirm a telephone conversation between yourself and Bill Sinclair of my staff of March 25, 1983. The purpose of the call was to inform you of a situation involving the shipment of hazardous waste from the Plateau New Mexico oil refinery to Overthrust Tools of Vernal, Utah.

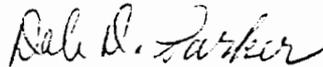
Kent Montague and Bill Sinclair visited Overthrust Tools on March 16, 1983, after being informed by some gentlemen in the crude oil re-refining business that a shipment of "pit sludge" was sitting in a storage tank on the Overthrust Tools property. Contact was made with Mr. Tim Mulville of Overthrust who was involved in the removal of this waste. Mr. Mulville stated he had been asked by Plateau to clean the pit directly upstream from the API separator because they needed a liner installed quickly. Mr. Mulville steam heated the pit and removed all of its contents ending up with a mixture of crude oil, water, sludge, and dirt. The waste was loaded aboard a PIE tanker and shipped to Vernal, Utah. Overthrust paid approximately \$20,000 for transport of the waste to later discover that the resultant waste mixture would be difficult to re-refine. Therefore the 1800 barrels of waste remains in storage in Vernal, Utah. Overthrust claims it was unaware and was never informed that this waste might be hazardous. The State of Utah contends that this "pit sludge" is actually K051, a listed hazardous waste.

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In a meeting on another matter with Plateau, this incident was brought up. Dwight Stockhom of Plateau vehemently denied that the waste was hazardous and stated it was only the skimmings of crude off of the pit top. If this was the case, why didn't Plateau reclaim the crude themselves? A couple of days after the meeting, Mr. Mulville received a phone call from Mr. Stockhom wondering about the final disposition of the crude (whether or not it had been re-refined).

The State of Utah has requested enforcement assistance through Region VIII, EPA in Denver concerning this incident. If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact Bill Sinclair or Kent Montague at (801) 533-4145.

Sincerely,



Dale D. Parker, Ph.D.
Executive Secretary
Utah Solid and Hazardous Wastes
Committee

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