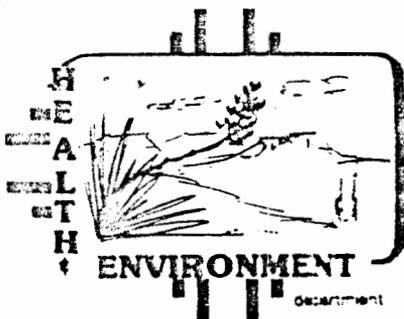




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MEMORANDUM

TO: ANTHONY DRYPOLCHER, BUREAU CHIEF, GROUND WATER/HAZARDOUS WASTE BUREAU
THRU: RICHARD J. PERKINS, HEALTH PROGRAM MANAGER, LIQUID WASTE/SURVEILLANCE SECTION
FROM: DENNIS McQUILLAN, WRS II, LIQUID WASTE/SURVEILLANCE SECTION
SUBJECT: PLATEAU INC., REFINERY
DATE: JUNE 12, 1984

I briefly reviewed the Plateau Inc., Refinery (Bloomfield) on-site sampling investigation report contained in the May 17, 1984 U.S. EPA memorandum from J. Paul Oser to Dave Peters through K.H. Malone, Jr. The data are complex, typical of petroleum-refinery wastes, and hard to interpret due to numerous tabulations involving different matrices with only one graphic figure (i.e. the base map).

The key question with regard to NMWQCC regulations is whether or not ground water of "present or reasonably foreseeable future use" has been polluted.

The origin(s) and usefulness of water saturating the cobble overlying the Nacimiento Formation are questionable. However, based upon the U.S. EPA memorandum, organic vapors were associated with ground water in the San Juan River alluvium. The aquifer, if not polluted, should be of good quality. Unfortunately, the specific contaminants in the ground water were not quantified. Please note that chlorinated ethanes were detected in river-sediment samples collected both upstream and downstream from the Plateau Inc., site.

The Bloomfield water system is partially supplied by a well completed in the valley fill. Since Bloomfield's water has never been tested for trihalomethanes, I am having the valley fill well sampled for aromatic and halogenated purgeable organics.

Recommendations

1. The potential usefulness of ground waters near the Plateau Inc., site should be defined.
2. Organic contaminants in San Juan River alluvial ground water should be specifically quantified.

ANTHONY DRYPOLCHER

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June 12, 1984

3. The source(s) of chlorinated ethanes in San Juan River sediment samples should be determined.
4. The reasonably foreseeable future fate of the contaminants discharged by Plateau Inc. should be estimated.

cc: Peter H. Pache

DM/ps