



January 14, 1993

Senators: Christine Donisthorpe
Raymond Kysar

Representatives: Jerry Sandel
Darla Whitney-Welles
David Christensen

Blmfld. City Council: Sam Mohler
Julie Hunter
Bob Cassady
Ed Wood

Blmfld. City Manager: Al Keller
Blmfld. Mayor: Art Kittell

We want to take this opportunity to let you know that Bloomfield Refining Company of Bloomfield, New Mexico, has entered into an administrative consent order with the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), Region 6, dated December 31, 1992. This agreement comes after many years of discussion with EPA (beginning with our predecessors, Plateau, Inc.) about groundwater quality at the refinery. The agreement formalizes a procedure for continuing positive steps to determine the extent of any refinery-related effects on groundwater quality and further desirable measures to address those effects.

Since its purchase of the Refinery in 1984, and long before the recent EPA consent order, Bloomfield Refining Company has been involved in efforts to monitor and improve groundwater. Most, if not all, of the current groundwater conditions in the refinery area are believed to be a cumulative result of product leakage over many years. In conjunction with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division ("NMOCD") oversight, we have developed and implemented plans to prevent further product releases with such measures as systematic tank inspection and repair programs, double-lining of surface impoundments, and up-grading of refinery sewers and paving. We have also installed a groundwater recovery well system within the plant site which, with other measures, will continue in operation under the EPA consent order.

For some time, the EPA has been concerned that the refinery management of process materials and waste, beginning with our predecessor, Plateau, Inc., has had an impact on groundwater quality. Although the NMOCD has been effectively working with us on groundwater issues for a number of years, EPA elected to exercise its jurisdiction under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act to oversee our assessment of, and response to, groundwater conditions.

The agreement with the EPA, among other things, spells out a systematic approach for further assessing groundwater conditions and actual or potential sources affecting groundwater quality. As an interim source control measure, Bloomfield Refining Company will further enhance its existing groundwater recovery system. The agreement also requires us to identify and evaluate whether additional long-term remedial measures are appropriate and to determine what those measures should be. This process is expected to take approximately one to two years with periodic progress reports being submitted to the EPA.

Actual implementation of additional remedial measures, if any are found appropriate, could then follow under a separate future agreement.

For your information, Bloomfield Refining Company processes 16,500 barrels per day of Four Corners crude oil into primarily gasoline, diesel, and military jet fuel products. The company employs 130 people in the plant and in associated support positions with an annual payroll of approximately \$5 million. In addition to this economic contribution, we are committed to protecting the environmental quality of our community. We will continue to work diligently with the EPA and other governmental agencies to have an environmentally sound facility for ourselves and our community.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely yours,



David Roderick
Refinery Manager

cc: Ron Williams

Joe Warr

Sally Allen

~~Chris Hawley~~