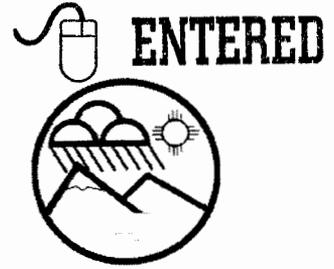


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SECRETARY

CINDY PADILLA
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July 30, 2007
For Immediate Release

Contact: Marissa Stone, NMED Communications Director
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**Environment Department Issues Final Order to
San Juan Refining Co. and Giant Industries for pollution at facility in Northwestern
New Mexico**

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department issued a Compliance Order to Giant Refining Co., Bloomfield Refinery that requires the company to conduct a facility-wide investigation and clean up releases of hazardous and solid wastes into the environment.

“This 145-page order requires Giant to clean up years of contamination of soil and water from crude oil operations at the facility,” said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. “The refinery must do everything possible to correct problems created by hazardous leaks at the facility into the environment. The order ensures citizens and the environment are protected.”

Giant Refining Co., Bloomfield Refinery (Giant) is a crude oil refining facility operated by the San Juan Refining Co. and owned by Giant Industries Arizona, Inc. The facility, which has the refining capacity of 18,000 barrels per day, processes crude oil into petroleum products. The Bloomfield Refinery, which began as a crude topping unit, changed ownership over the years and has operated since the late 1950's as a processor of crude oil into petroleum products. Western Refining Co. of El Paso Texas recently purchased Giant Industries Arizona, Inc.

The company violated the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act by failing to clean up releases of hazardous and solid waste from process areas storage tanks, pipes and other areas of diesel, gasoline crude oil and other products into the soil, surface water and groundwater.

Hazardous constituents and other contaminants released at the facility include: organic contaminants such as benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes (BTEX); other volatile organic compounds (VOCs); semi volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), including polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH's); separate phase hydrocarbons; diesel range organics (DRO); gasoline range organics (GRO); oil range organics (ORO); 2) metals such as arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, manganese, selenium, and zinc; and 3) other inorganic contaminants such as fluoride, chloride, nitrate, and sulfate. Most contaminants detected beneath the facility primarily consist of BTEX, GRO, DRO, and separate phase hydrocarbons.

NMED is issuing the Final Order after a 60 day public comment period between June 21, 2006 and August 21, 2006. The Facility was the only respondent to provide comments on the draft Order. The Final Order contains investigation and cleanup requirements and a schedule for implementation at the Giant facility.

The Final Order and NMED's response to public comments may be viewed at the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau located at 2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303 or at NMED's website: www.nmenv.state.nm.us/HWB/grcbperm.html under Final Order.

For more information, contact Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314 or Marissa.Stone@state.nm.us.

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Monzeglio, Hope, NMENV

From: Stone, Marissa, NMENV
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2007 5:39 PM
To: NMENV-global
Subject: News - Giant Order/ Boil Water Order-Pie Town/ Asarco(El Paso Times)

7-30 Associated Press

State orders cleanup at Bloomfield Refinery, NM

SANTA FE (AP) _ The state Environment Department on Monday ordered Giant Industries Inc. and San Juan Refining Co. to investigate and clean up contamination at a refinery in northwestern New Mexico.

Environment Secretary Ron Curry said his department issued a 145-page compliance order that requires the cleanup of what he called years of soil and water contamination from crude oil operations at the Bloomfield Refinery.

'The refinery must do everything possible to correct problems created by hazardous leaks at the facility into the environment,' he said. 'The order ensures citizens and the environment are protected.'

A message seeking comment was left Monday for a spokesman with Western Refining Inc., an El Paso, Texas-based company that acquired Giant Industries in May.

The Bloomfield Refinery, which was owned by Giant and operated by San Juan Refining Co., processes crude oil into petroleum products. It can process up to 18,000 barrels of crude oil per day.

The Environment Department said the refinery violated the state Hazardous Waste Act by allowing diesel, gasoline, crude oil and other contaminants to leak from storage tanks, pipes and other areas into the soil, surface water and groundwater.

The department said hazardous wastes released at the refinery include benzene, fluoride, chloride and sulfate as well as metals such as arsenic, chromium, lead and mercury.

Most contaminants were detected in the northwest portion of the refinery.

The final compliance order spells out investigation and cleanup requirements and includes a schedule for implementation.

The refinery has been investigating the extent of the contamination, but the state said more work needs to be done.

Boil order issued for Catron County association, NM

PIE TOWN, N.M. (AP) _ The state Environment Department has advised the Pie Town Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association in Catron County to issue a boil water order for its water system.

Officials with the department's Drinking Water Bureau determined the water system exceeded the maximum allowable level for E. coli.

Customers are advised to boil water for five minutes before drinking, cooking and dishwashing.

The presence of E. coli indicates the water might have been contaminated by sewage or animal waste and could contain disease-causing organisms.

Officials are working to disinfect the water system and identify the possible sources of contamination.

Asarco foes dissatisfied by agency's response

By Zahira Torres / El Paso Times
El Paso Times, 07/29/07
http://www.elpasotimes.com/news/ci_6490949

Article Launched:07/29/2007 12:00:00 AM MDT

Local Asarco opponents -- who hoped that Glenn Shankle, the executive director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality would reconsider a recommendation to allow Asarco a five-year renewal of its current air permit -- were disappointed after reading Shankle's statement in support of the decision.

"The impact from Asarco is serious," said Jim Kelly, a member of the Get the Lead Out coalition, an organization that submitted comments advising the TCEQ of concerns over the smelter reopening. "It is real. It is in our soil, in our water, in the air we breathe."

"We don't know what we have been polluted with in the past 15 years," Kelly said. "We don't want Asarco to have any more opportunities to pollute. We just want them to clean up the mess they left in people's yards and on their own site."

Friday, Shankle responded to thousands of comments that were submitted over the seven-week period after the release of the Executive Director's Report to the Commission on Renewal of Asarco Incorporated's Air Quality Permit.

In the 42-page report, Shankle responded to concerns from local grass-roots groups, state and national representatives and area residents who opposed the recommendation, which would allow the smelter to renew its air-quality permit under certain provisions.

According to a letter released by the office of state Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, D-El Paso, the TCEQ received 10,010 letters. Of those letters, 9,045 opposed the permit renewal, while 965 agreed to the smelter reopening.

El Pasoans and officials "have given them so many examples" of the negative repercussions of the smelter reopening, Kelly said.

"We wrote over 9,000 letters, had hundreds of people who went to Austin and hundreds of people went again to oppose Asarco."