



SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor

JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor

NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



Hazardous Waste Bureau

2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303
Phone (505) 476-6000 Fax (505) 476-6030
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



DAVE MARTIN
Secretary

BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

JAMES H. DAVIS, Ph.D.
Director
Resource Protection Division

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

July 5, 2012

Mr. Randy Schmaltz
Environmental Manager
Western Refining, Bloomfield Refinery
P.O. Box 159
Bloomfield, New Mexico 87413

**RE: APPROVAL
INVESTIGATION REPORT GROUP 6 (AOC NO. 19 SEEP
NORTH OF MW-45, AOC NO. 20 SEEP NORTH OF MW-46, AND
AOC NO. 21 SEEP NORTH OF MW-47)
WESTERN REFINING SOUTHWEST, INC., BLOOMFIELD REFINERY
EPA ID# NMD089416416
HWB-WRB-11-008**

Dear Mr. Schmaltz:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has completed its review of Western Refining Southwest, Inc., Bloomfield Refinery's (Western) *Investigation Report Group 6 (AOC No. 19 Seep North of MW-45, AOC No. 20 Seep North of MW-46, and AOC No. 21 Seep North of MW-47)* (Report), dated November 2011. NMED hereby approves this Report with the following comments.

Comment 1

Section 7 (Conclusions and Recommendations), pages 32 through 34, summarizes the results of the investigation and provides conclusions and recommendations for the work completed at Group 6. However, Western did not discuss or provide any recommendations to address the

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DRO result of 21,000 mg/kg from soil sample location AOC 19-23, which is significantly higher than the residential soil screening level (SSLs). NMED understands that the conditions at the site are not conducive to allow removal of the material from the bluff surface; however, Western must provide an explanation about the conditions at soil sample location AOC 19-23 to include a description of the location and an explanation why removal is not warranted or practicable. Western must include this discussion at the end of Section 7.2 (Recommendations) and provide a replacement page for the Report.

Comment 2

Section 7.2 (Recommendations), page 34, states that “[a]dditional soil samples should be collected at the locations with the highest concentrations of chromium at AOC 19 [e.g., AOC 19-13 (0-0.5’), AOC 19-14 (0-0.5’), and AOC 19-18 (0-0.5’)]. The samples should be analyzed for chromium VI to determine if the chromium detected in soils at AOC 19 is present as chromium III or chromium VI.” Western must collect at least three additional soil samples from soils within AOC 19 at locations where contaminants are not detected at high concentrations to determine if chromium is typically present as chromium III and not present only as a result of local reducing conditions in areas containing petroleum contamination. Western must submit a letter work plan to propose the additional investigation activities to collect these soil samples.

Comment 3

Figures 12 (AOC No. 19 Arsenic Soil Map) through 19 (AOC No. 21 Diesel Range Organics Soil Map) depict surface soil and soil boring locations with their corresponding analytical results. In addition, the results greater than the SSL are underlined. However, Western did not specify which SSL is represented in the figures. In future submittals, specify which SSLs are referenced in figures.

Comment 4

Appendix C provides site photographs of the areas of concern (AOCs) and seep locations. Some of the site photos depict sample locations, but they are not identified in the captions. In future submittals, identify the sample locations in the captions below the site photos if the sample locations are visible in the photo.

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Western must adhere to all requirements in this Approval in future submittals. The replacement page must be submitted to NMED by **July 27, 2012**. The work plan referenced in Comment 2 must be submitted to NMED no later than **October 12, 2012**.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Leona Tsinnajinnie of my staff at (505) 476-6057.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
C. Chavez, OCD
A. Hains, Western
K. Robinson, Western Bloomfield Refinery

File: HWB-WRB-11-008 and Reading 2012