

GRC 2004



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GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

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RON CURRY
SECRETARY

DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE
DEPUTY SECRETARY

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

July 6, 2004

Mr. Randall N. Medicine Bear, General Manager
Navajo Tribal Utility Authority
General Manager's Office
P.O. Box 170
Fort Defiance, Arizona 86504

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
WATER SUPPLY WELLS #666 AND #668
IYANBITO CHAPTER
NAVAJO NATION

Dear Mr. Medicine Bear:

New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) appreciated the opportunity to hear community concerns regarding drinking water supply contamination at a recent special meeting of the Iyanbito Chapter of the Navajo Nation. The Iyanbito Chapter was concerned that operations at the Giant Refining Company Ciniza Refinery, located approximately three miles to the east, had affected their water supply. Giant Refining Company's Ciniza Refinery is regulated by both the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and the New Mexico Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department Oil Conservation Division (OCD).

Based on information provided by Mr. Jerry Silago of your office at the meeting, it appears that the problem with the Chapter's drinking water supply may likely be caused by their water distribution system; however, the State of New Mexico intends to evaluate geologic and groundwater quality data from the Ciniza Refinery water supply wells and the Iyanbito water supply wells to help identify the source of water quality degradation at the Iyanbito Chapter. With the permission of the Iyanbito Chapter, NMED and OCD collected samples from water supply wells #666 and #668 for chemical analysis at the conclusion of the meeting. NMED and OCD will provide copies of the results of the chemical analyses to the Iyanbito Chapter, the

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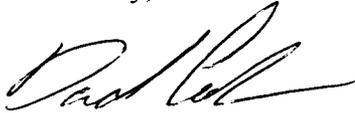
Navajo Tribal Utility Authority and the Navajo Environmental Protection Agency upon receipt of the final laboratory reports.

At the Iyanbito Chapter meeting, Mr. Silago offered to provide the NMED with copies of well construction information and water quality data for wells 666 and 668 that are on file at the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority offices. NMED is requesting the following information for water supply wells 666 and 668 located at the Iyanbito Chapter of the Navajo Nation, if available:

1. Drilling logs
2. Well construction diagrams
3. Aquifer test results (conducted as part of well installation activities)
4. Water level (potentiometric surface elevation) records for 2003 and 2004
5. Water quality testing results

Thank you very much for your assistance with NMED's evaluation of the Iyanbito Chapter water supply wells and the Giant Refining Company Ciniza Refinery. Please call me at 505-428-2553 if you have questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



Dave Cobrain
Staff Manager
Hazardous Waste Bureau

DC:cm

cc: Derrith Watchman-Moore, NMED
Charles Lundstrom, NMED WWMD
James Bearzi, NMED HWB
J. Kieling, NMED HWB
Leonard Francisco Jr., President, Iyanbito Chapter, Navajo Nation
Dorothy Rogers, Secretary, Iyanbito Chapter, Navajo Nation
Jerry Silago, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority
Wayne Price, NMOCD
H. Monzeglio, NMED HWB
Senator Lidio G. Rainaldi, New Mexico State Senate
Leroy Gabaldon, New Mexico Commission on Indian Affairs
Thomas Bitsoi, Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency

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