

GRCC 06

**State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

**Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303
Telephone (505) 428-2500
Fax (505) 428-2567
www.nmenv.state.nm.us**



**BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR**



**RON CURRY
SECRETARY
DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE
DEPUTY SECRETARY**

**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

February 3, 2006

Mr. Ed Riege
Environmental Superintendent
Giant Refining Company
Route 3 Box 7
Gallup, New Mexico 87301

**SUBJECT: OLD API SEPARATOR EFFLUENT
GIANT REFINING COMPANY, CINIZA REFINERY
EPA NO. NMD000333211
HWB-GRCC-MISC**

Dear Mr. Riege:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is requiring Giant Refining Company, Ciniza Refinery (Permittee) to route all effluent discharging from the "Old" API separator to the "New" API separator prior to entry into the aeration lagoons. Weekly effluent sampling results, collected during the month of December 2005 from the "Old" API separator, detected benzene at hazardous concentrations, exceeding 500 parts per billion.

The "Old" API separator was closed and removed from service on October 6, 2004 and converted for use for storm water drainage only in December 2004. After the conversion, the Permittee stated the "Old" API Separator would not receive refinery process wastewater. Based on the available information, it appears the "Old" API Separator is still receiving refinery process wastewater containing benzene at hazardous concentrations and potentially F037 and F038 listed waste. The "Old" API separator no longer functions as an API separator; therefore, cannot receive refinery process wastewater or store hazardous waste. The use of the "Old" API Separator must also comply with all state and federal agency regulations and the current use does not comply with the Oil Conservation Division's (OCD) discharge permit.

Mr. Ed Riege
Giant Ciniza Refining Company
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The Permittee has not provided definitive information pinpointing the source of hazardous constituents entering the "Old" API separator. The Permittee must route all of the "Old" API separator effluent to the "New" API separator. The Permittee may propose an alternate resolution that will treat the "Old" API separator effluent prior to entering the aeration lagoons. The re-routing of the effluent must be accomplished by May 1, 2006 or an alternate proposal must be submitted to NMED no later than April 17, 2006. This proposal must also be approved by OCD.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please call me at (505) 428-2545.

Sincerely,



Hope Monzeglio
Project Leader
Permits Management Program

HM

cc: J. Kieling, NMED HWB
D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
W. Price, OCD
C. Chavez, OCD
D. Foust, OCD
S. Morris, GRCC

File: Reading and GRCC 2006