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September 14, 2010

Mr. James P. Bearzi
Chief – Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303

RE: NMED's "Notice of Disapproval, Land Treatment Unit Post Closure Sampling Event
Western Refining Company Southwest Inc., Gallup Refinery
EPA ID # NMD000333211 HWB-WRG-10-005"

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

The purpose of this letter is to respond to the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) *Notice of Disapproval, Land Treatment Unit Post Closure Sampling Event, Western Refining Company Southwest Inc., Gallup Refinery EPA ID # NMD000333211 HWB-WRG-10-005* (LTU NOD), dated August 18, 2010. The *Land Treatment Unit Post Closure Sampling Event, Western Refining Company Southwest Inc., Gallup Refinery EPA ID # NMD000333211 HWB-WRG-10-005* (Report) was submitted by Western Refining Company's Gallup Refinery (Gallup) to NMED in March of 2010. The Report consisted of a cover letter, the *Land Treatment Unit Soil Sampling Report* (prepared by Trihydro, dated January 5, 2010), and LTU groundwater data.

NMED provided four comments in the LTU NOD. NMED's first three comments request that the Report be updated to include additional information. Gallup agrees to update the Report per NMED's first three comments and re-submit the revised report by December 10, 2010, as requested by NMED.

In the fourth LTU NOD comment, NMED disapproved of the soil sampling procedures utilized to collect samples for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) at some of the LTU sample locations and requested re-sampling. On December 8, 2009, NMED was contacted via telephone to discuss alternate sampling procedures. During this telephone conversation, NMED verbally approved an alternate sampling procedure (the use of a hand auger as opposed to a hollow stem auger). At that time, NMED was not aware that using the hand auger would require an intermediate step of extracting soil onto clean plastic sheeting prior to placing it into the sample container. NMED generally does not approve of this step as it can potentially increase volatilization of VOCs. However, during conversations between Gallup, NMED, and Trihydro on September 1, 2010, NMED agreed that re-sampling will not be necessary for the December 2009 event.

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In the future, Gallup will utilize a hollow stem auger drill rig or consult with NMED to determine another appropriate sampling method. If you have any questions, or if we can be of further service to you, please do not hesitate to call me at (505) 722-0217.

Sincerely,
Western Refining Company



Ed Riege
Environmental Manager

697-039-001

Attachments

cc: J. Kieling, NMED HWB
D. Cobrain NMED HWB
H. Monzeglio NMED HWB
K. Van Horn NMED HWB
C. Chavez, OCD
L. Morgan, Western Refining
R. Mitchell, Trihydro

File: Reading File and WRG 2010 File HWB-WRG-10-005

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