TDH
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Texas Department of Health

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Charles E. Bell, M.D.
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OSP

December 19, 2000

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Mr. Kevin Hsueh
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2738

Re: January 2001 Tour of UMTRCA sites in Texas

Dear Mr. Hsueh:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation yesterday, I am sending this letter as an e-mail attachment, as well as by U.S. mail. Since there are some questions concerning the nature of this scheduled reconnaissance of UMTRCA sites in Texas, I decided that it would be easiest to reproduce the current itinerary here and, at the same time, provide some background information and explanation as to the purposes for the tour.

BACKGROUND

DOE contacted me in November concerning their regularly scheduled (every January) Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance (LTSM) inspection of the UMTRCA Title I site near Falls City, Texas (formerly known as the "Susquehanna Western" or "Solutions Engineering" site). In order to take advantage of the opportunity of being in the area for its LTSM inspection, DOE requested that the Texas Department of Health (TDH) arrange informal meetings at each one of the three UMTRCA Title II sites, as well. In addition, we discussed inviting Ted Johnson of NRC, since he had expressed an interest in the sites and especially since the State of Texas remains concerned about avoiding the sorts of problems that were evident at the Sherwood site in Washington State upon NRC's inspection.

OSP-006 Template
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PURPOSES

DOE – (a) to conduct DOE's annual LTSM inspection of the UMTRCA Title I site.
(b) to introduce DOE representatives and meet with the radiation safety officers (RSOs) of the three UMTRCA Title II sites, in conjunction with TDH staff, in order to familiarize DOE with each site.
(c) to jointly discuss current time-line projections for final site transference from each of the commercial firms to DOE.

TDH - (a) to facilitate meetings between DOE and representatives of each of the three UMTRCA Title II sites.
(b) to visually inspect ongoing and recently-completed surface work at each of the sites.
(c) to meet with representatives of NRC in order to get NRC feedback/opinion on the site design characteristics and progress of site reclamation.

SITES (4 total -- 1 Title I, and 3 Title IIs)

UMTRCA Title I Site --

"Susquehanna Western" site – located approximately 45 miles southeast of San Antonio on Farm to Market (FM) Road 1344, about a half mile northwest of the intersection of FM 791 and FM 1344, and approximately eight miles southwest of Falls City, Texas. Surface remediation and groundwater corrective action (supplemental standards) have been completed by DOE at this site, and it is currently under general license from NRC.

UMTRCA Title II Sites --

Conoco/Conquista site – located approximately 45 miles southeast of San Antonio on Farm to Market (FM) Road 791, approximately a mile east of the Title I site, and approximately seven miles southwest of Falls City in Karnes County, Texas. This site is in post-closure monitoring, but is currently remediating an area of settlement, and is nearing completion of a proposal to address groundwater contamination.

Rio Grande Resources (RGR) site – located approximately 50 miles southeast of San Antonio and one mile west of State Highway 123, on FM 81 near Hobson in Karnes County, Texas. This site is in post-closure monitoring, but is addressing minor settlement, and has a pending ACL application for three groundwater constituents.

Exxon/Ray Point (Felder) site – located approximately 70 miles south-southeast of San Antonio and six miles northeast of Three Rivers, off State Highway 72 in Live Oak County, Texas. This site is in post-closure monitoring, but is preparing a proposal to dispose of minor surface contamination ("hot spots" from previous ore haulage) in a designed pit within the restricted area.

ITINERARY

After contacting everyone, I have assembled the following itinerary:

Mon, January 8th - DOE travel to Texas

Tue, January 9th - DOE annual LTSM inspection of Title I site (TDH will not be present for this inspection)

Wed, January 10th, 9:45 a.m. – After traveling from Austin headquarters, TDH to rendezvous with DOE for meeting with Mr. Claude Olenick, RSO, Conoco, at the Conquista site.

Wed, January 10th, 1:30 p.m. - DOE and TDH drive after lunch in Falls City to meet with Mr. Kevin Raabe, RSO, Rio Grande Resources (RGR) at the Panna Maria site.

Thu, January 11th, 8:30 a.m. - DOE and TDH rendezvous for meeting with Mr. Mark Hoffman, P.E., RSO, ExxonMobil at the Ray Point site.

Thu, January 11th, 1:00 p.m. (+/-) – TDH departs and returns to Austin headquarters.

PARTICIPANTS

The likely participants are as follows:

TDH - Bruce Calder, geologist, and George Gonzalez, P.E., civil engineer
DOE - Mark Plessinger, P.E.; John Gilmore, P.E.; and possibly Art Kleinrath, P.E.
NRC – Kevin Hsueh; Ted Johnson; and Dan Rom

Conoco - Claude Olenick, RSO; and possibly Ches Blevins, atty for Conoco.
RGR - Kevin Raabe, RSO
Exxon - Mark Hoffman, P.E., RSO

ACCOMMODATIONS

TDH staff will probably be staying at the Best Western Hotel in either Three Rivers, TX, (361) 786-2000; or the one in George West, TX, (361) 449-3300, on the evening of the 10th. DOE has indicated that DOE staff will be staying in San Antonio for the evenings of the 8th and 9th, and then will probably stay in Three Rivers for the evening of the 10th.

Please call me at (512) 834-6688, X-2862, to discuss these plans when you have had a chance to review them. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bruce Calder

Bruce Calder

cc: MACTEC, Attention: Mark Plessinger, P.E.