

From: "John McCarthy" <pri_jmccarthy@vcn.com>
To: "Paul Michalak" <PXM2@nrc.gov>
Date: 10/25/2006 4:46:38 PM
Subject: Spill at Smith Ranch-Highland - 40-8964

Paul,

As a follow-up to my phone message of Monday, October 23, 2006 concerning a reportable leak experienced that the Smith Ranch Mine site. The details of the leak are as follows:

At approximately 09:30 hrs on the morning of October 21, 2006 I was informed by Pat Drummond (Plant and Maintenance Manager) of a failure in a "T" joint in a supply line to our deep disposal well from the Central Processing Plant (CCP) and "T"ing to a clean-out line. The "T" was located in a bellhole in Wellfield 3. An inspection on Monday noted the failure was at a welded joint and approximately a 2"x 1" oval break. At the time of discovery the plant was shut down and the needed repairs were assessed. The preliminary assessment was that all flow going to the deep disposal well was released into the bell hole and from there followed the buried line back to the CCP, surfacing approximately 50" from the bellhole on the downhill side. The total solutions were estimated to be at 50,000 gallons. The failed "T" was replaced and the plant brought back on line early afternoon on Saturday, October 21. On Monday morning the plant and deep disposal well's continuous recording records were examined and the total flow released from the event was determined to be 7,041 gallons with 3,100 gallons recovered with a water truck, the rest going as planned down the Deep Disposal Well. Leaving 3,941 gallons unrecovered. A water sample was collected and a soil sample will be collected this week, both sent to Energy Labs for analysis. All "Ts" are to be inspected to determine if replacement might be necessary to prevent a future occurrence.

This e-mail will be followed with a complete report.

regards,

jmc

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From: "John McCarthy" <pri_jmccarthy@vcn.com>
Created By: pri_jmccarthy@vcn.com

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