



CHEROKEE NATION

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February 24, 1994

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Randall E. Brown, Chief
RCRA Enforcement Branch (6H-C)
U.S. EPA, Region VI
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Subject: Comments on the "Draft" RCRA Facility Investigation Work Plan for Sequoyah Fuels A General Atomics Company, dated January 28, 1994.

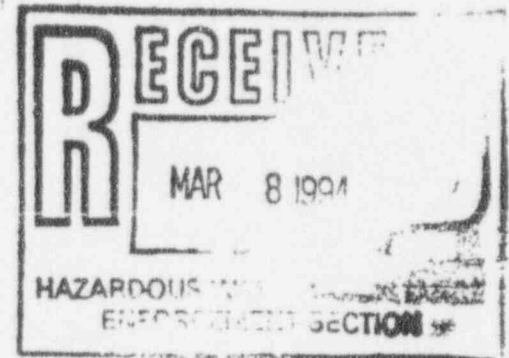
Mr Brown,

In a letter dated June 4, 1993 and addressed to the Director of the U.S. EPA, Region VI, Hazardous Waste Management Division, I raised several issues of concern. My comments on the EPA/RCRA Corrective Action Order for Sequoyah Fuels, OKD051961183, focused on groundwater contamination and heavy metal analyses.

Historically, the Sequoyah Fuels Corporation (SFC) has conducted limited analyses to characterize heavy metal contamination at the facility. This is verified by the SFC/FEI Reports, and a Superfund Site Investigation Report, Gore Riverbed (OKD987087566), submitted to the EPA, Region VI in February 1993. Basically, SFC heavy metal characterization has been limited to arsenic. In addition, a SFC official, speaking at an Oklahoma Society of Environmental Professionals Meeting, March 11, 1993 in Oklahoma City, indicated that only two monitoring wells were used to characterize heavy metal constituents for the entire SFC facility.

Again, it appears that SFC is attempting to conduct a limited heavy metal analyses as indicated in the "Draft" RCRA Facility Investigation Work Plan (RFI), Section 1.5.1, Target Parameter List, and Table 1. It is imperative, in my opinion, to conduct a complete heavy metal suite analyses to thoroughly characterize and

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accurately assess contamination at the facility. The complete heavy metal suite analyses should be similar to that conducted by the EPA Superfund and Contract Laboratory Programs (total metals plus cyanide). In addition, it should include fluoride and nitrate. This would also include all monitoring wells in both the shallow and deep aquifers. This suggestion would be comparable to conducting an RI/FS for the SFC Facility, under Superfund. On the other hand, anything less would be similar to conducting a focused or limited Site Investigation, under Superfund.

The purpose for conducting a thorough and accurate analyses for heavy metals and all SFC Facility groundwater monitoring wells is not to inflict undue hardship or an unreasonable request upon the Sequoyah Fuels Corporation. Based on heavy metal constituents of "Yellowcake", see Gore Riverbed Site Investigation Report, Appendix A, pages 29-32, Tables 4-6, the SFC is only addressing a segment of the possible constituents found in "Yellowcake". In addition, referring to the same report and narrative, Table 6, chromium and other heavy metals were identified immediately west of the SFC Facility (off-site) in shallow groundwater monitoring wells, which are not addressed in the RFI list of heavy metals to be analyzed.

Heavy metals identified off-site are probably attributable to either the groundwater migration of contaminants from the SFC Facility or the application of raffinate on SFC pastureland. In either case, it is again, imperative, to determine and then eliminate by analyses, all possible heavy metal constituents found in the various pathways on-site and off-site.

The RFI Target Values, Section 1.5.2, should be based on the EPA Hazard Ranking System (HRS) Guidance Manual, Interim Final, EPA 540-R-92-026, November 1992, and the criteria for an Observed Release (Chapter 5). In addition, by following the HRS Guidance Manual criteria for Observed Release it also complies with the RCRA Ground Water Monitoring Technical Enforcement Guidance Document (TEGD, September 1986), Section 5.4.2, Comparison of Background Data with Downgradient Data. This identifies all areas with observed releases and provides a more accurate site characterization.

Sincerely,



Dwayne Beavers



March 9, 1994

DATE

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

TO: (Name, office symbol, room number, building, Agency/Post)	Initials	Date
1. Jim Shepherd Division of Low-Level Waste Management & Decommissioning Office of Nuclear Materials, Safety, and Safeguards U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission OWFN - Mail Stop 5E4 Washington, D.C. 20555		
<p>Remarks:</p> <p>RE: Comments of the Draft RFI Work Plan from the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma for your information.</p> <p>Hebert</p> <p>DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals, clearances and similar actions</p>		
FROM: RCRA Enforcement Branch, Technical Section (6H-CX)	Room No. - Bldg. <i>Cubicle 10.126</i>	
<i>Michael A. Hebert</i>	Phone No. <i>(214) 655-8315</i>	

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