



JAN 10 1996

DQH:218-1

Reply to Attn of

Coreen Battany  
County of Santa Clara  
Department of Environmental Health  
Hazardous Materials Compliance Division  
P.O. Box 28070  
San Jose, CA 95159-8070

Dear Ms. Battany:

As required by Part VI. Section B11-306.01(A)(1)(b) of the County Hazardous Materials Storage Permit Ordinance, the following information is being reported to your department.

On Monday, December 4, 1995, NASA personnel observed a release of diesel fuel at Gate 14B (North Perimeter Road). Details of the spill and measures taken in response to the incident are described below as they were discussed with Ms. Christine Moore of your department December 4, 1995.

**SPILL DESCRIPTION**

Date/time Discovered: 12-4-95 at 3:00 pm;  
Date Cleanup began: 12-4-95;  
Notifications: Santa Clara County Health Department: 4:00 pm,  
December 4, 1995 Office of Emergency Services: # 01171; 4:05pm  
Cliff Cahee, Regional Water Quality Control Board: 4:05 pm  
Petty Officer Suyat, US Coast Guard: 4:10 pm,  
Substance: Diesel Fuel;  
Quantity: Fifty (50) gallons;  
Location: Gate 14B;  
Cause: Fuel spilled from lines that had been disconnected from the tank;  
Environment Affected: Soil and storm drainage channel;  
Injuries: No injuries or evacuations.

**SPILL RESPONSE:**

At 3:00 pm on 12-4-95 NASA discovered a diesel spill at Gate 14B (North Perimeter Road). The spill originated from lines connecting a generator to an aboveground tank, which had been disconnected to service the pumps. Approximately 50 gallons of diesel leaked onto the base rock. The diesel migrated through the base rock. A quantity of the diesel entered the storm drain channel, resulting in surface sheen. Approximately four tenths of a mile of the channel (from Gate 14B to B191) was impacted. The contaminated water was subsequently pumped from B191 to the adjacent channel.

Based on Cliff Cahee's (RWQCB) previous request to place spill response equipment at the B191 lift station in response to a spill from Tank 105 last summer, NASA Ames Research Center was able to respond quickly to the this spill thereby minimizing the impact.

The following is a detailed sequence of events:

12-4-95

- 3:00 pm: NASA personnel observed an oily sheen on the water in the storm drain channel. Upon further investigation the source of the sheen was located at Gate 14B.
- 3:04 pm: Spill response was initiated which included the following actions:
- Pumps located in B191 were shut down and locked out.
  - The affected area of the storm drain channel was isolated.
  - Booms and pig mats were installed in contaminated areas.
- 4:00 pm: Appropriate agency notifications were made.

- 4:00 pm: Soil samples were taken along the storm drain channel directly west of Gate 14B. Excavation of contaminated base rock began.
- 4:15 pm: An oily sheen was found bubbling from an area directly east of Gate 14A, located at the east end of North Patrol Road. This appeared to be from another source not related to the diesel spill. Booms were installed at this location.
- 5:15 pm: Water samples were taken at both Gate 14A and B191.

12-5 through 12-7-95

Spill response continued with the addition of vacuum removal of remaining sheen.

12-8-95

Spill response continued.

- 3:30 pm: Cliff Cahee from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) inspected the spill location and the area around Gate 14A. He felt the response action had been conducted correctly, and made the following requests:
- Remove as much soil as possible from the contaminated areas at Gate 14B.
  - After the completion of soil excavation place at least double layered booms across the channel and inspect them periodically until no further product is desorbing.
  - Regarding the sheen at Gate 14A, move the western boom closer to the affected area.
- Mr. Cahee understood that this contamination may be the result of former Navy or DFSP operations, and has allowed time for an investigation of the situation.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:**

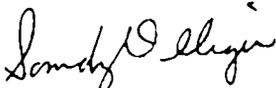
Corrective actions required based on this release are discussed below.

- The spill response supplies at the B191 lift station have been replaced.
- Booms have been installed and will be inspected and replaced as required.
- Excavation of contaminated soil will continue.

A final report will be issued when all corrective actions have been completed.

Should you require additional information or have any questions regarding this incident, please call me at (415) 604-3355.

Respectfully,



Sandy Olliges  
Environmental Program Manager

cc: Cliff Cahee, RWQCB  
Bob Holston, SCCHD  
Stephen Chao, Navy EFA West