

5090
Ser 1843.2/6124
22 Feb 1996

Ms. Susan Gladstone
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Francisco Bay Region
2101 Webster Street, Suite 500
Oakland, California 94612

Subj: MOFFETT FEDERAL AIRFIELD (MFA) SITE 9 SOURCE CONTROL MEASURES (SCM)
PRELIMINARY START-UP TESTING REPORT FOR THE BUILDING 45 TREATMENT
SYSTEM, NOVEMBER 8, 1995 (WEEK 4)

Dear Ms. Gladstone:

The Navy is submitting the laboratory results of the Building 45 treatment system effluent for the second month of operation. During this period, the system was sampled biweekly, on November 29, 1995, and on December 13, 1995. Samples were analyzed for metals, volatile organic compounds (VOC), total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) purgeable, and TPH extractable and fish toxicity.

Results from the November 29, 1995, sampling event indicate that effluent from the Building 45 treatment system met discharge limits for metals, VOCs, TPH purgeable, and fish toxicity. However, the effluent sample from this event contained an estimated 53 micrograms per liter (ug/L) diesel and 120 ug/L motor oil. Although the system's permit does not stipulate discharge limits for TPH extractable, it does require that system effluent contain no visible or floating products of petroleum origin. However, these analytical results may be erroneous as diesel and motor oil were not detected in either the air stripper effluent or the first granular activated carbon (GAC) bed effluent. Suspecting a laboratory error, PRC requested that the laboratory re-analyze the samples. The confirmation analysis, though conducted after the holding time expired, indicated that both diesel and motor oil were below detection limits. These confirmation results are included along with the other analytical results in attachments.

No VOCs, TPH purgeable, or TPH extractable constituents were detected in samples from the December 13, 1995. However, selenium was detected at 8 ug/L, above the 5 ug/L permit limit. This level of concentration is consistent with those found in background data and base-wide groundwater data. Additionally, fish toxicity testing indicated an 85 percent survival rate, below the 90 percent survival rate stipulated in the permit.

According to International Technology Corporation (IT), the Navy's Operation and Maintenance contractor for the Building 45 system, an overflow occurred on December 9, 1995. A member of the MFA police department noticed water overflowing from the air stripper sump at 8:30 a.m. At 8:36 a.m., the MFA fire department shut down the system and placed dikes around the nearest storm drain. About 50 to 100 gallons of water was contained. The contained water was released into the storm drain. IT found the cause of the problem to be a faulty level controller for the transfer pump. The transfer pump, which pumps water from the air stripper to the GAC beds, failed to turn on, causing water to overflow the air stripper sump. IT checked and restarted the system by 11:30 a.m.

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After a week of heavy rains in mid-December, influent into the Hangar 1 Sump increased to about 20 gallons per minute (gpm), exceeding the capacity of the Building 45 system. About 5 gpm was overflowing from the equalization tank to the storm drain via an overflow pipe. In order to accommodate the increased flow from the equalization tank and to minimize the overflow into the storm drain, the pumps in well W61-1 and FP9-1 were turned off on December 19, 1995.

The system broke down during the January 10, 1996, sampling event due to a faulty programmable logic controller (PLC). The sampling event was canceled and postponed until February 15, 1996.

On January 25, 1996, the programmable logic controller (PLC) for the Building 45 system was fixed and the motor for the air stripper transfer pump was replaced.

Please call Mr. Su Don Tu of my staff at (415) 244-2524 or Mr. David Berestka of PRC at (303) 312-8856 if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

STEPHEN CHAO
BRAC Environmental Coordinator for Moffett
By direction to
the Commanding Officer

Encl:

(1) Start-up Testing Report for November 8, 1995, for Building 45 Treatment System

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PRC Environmental Management, Inc. (Attn: Mr. David Berestka)

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ENCLOSURE

START-UP TESTING REPORT FOR
NOVEMBER 8, 1995 FOR
BUILDING 45 TREATMENT SYSTEM

THIS ENCLOSURE WAS NOT SUBMITTED TO THE
ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD FILE.

QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO:

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