

# Atlantic Richfield Company

**Roy I. Thun**  
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June 5, 2008

## **CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Ms. Nadia Hollan Burke  
Remedial Project Manager  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street, SFD-8-2  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**Subject: May 2008 Monthly Report, Yerington Mine Site, Lyon County, Nevada:  
Administrative Order for Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, EPA Docket  
No. 9-2007-0005**

Dear Ms. Hollan Burke:

Pursuant to the above referenced order issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 9 (EPA), please note the following monthly status report for Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) activities at the Yerington Mine Site (Site) during May 2008.

### **May 2008 Activities**

#### Operations, Maintenance and Site Security

- Continued routine site O&M and security activities.
- Pumpback well system (PWS) averaged approximately 47.8 gpm. All 11 wells operated 24/7 with minor downtime for preventive maintenance (wells PW-4, PW-7, PW-8, PW-10, and PW-11). PWS evaporation pond levels: north cell = 1.34 feet; middle cell = 1.09 feet; south cell = 1.36 feet. Active header pipe system cleaned by hydro-jetting May 21 and 22.
- Evaluation of the PWS maintenance schedule to determine if adjustments are warranted.
- Arimetco heap leach fluid management system (FMS) operations: 1) Total estimated gallons transferred from VLT Pond to Evaporation Pond = 441,000 gallons; SSP to Evaporation Pond = 0 gallons; Raff sump to Phase 1 Pond = 0 gallons; Phase 1 Pond to Evaporation Pond = 0 gallons; 2) Pond levels: Evaporation Pond = 6 feet; VLT Pond = 3.0 feet; Slot 2 Pond = 15.25 feet; Phase I Pond = 1 foot; Plant Feed Pond = 1 foot; and Mega Pond = puddles.
- Security: Arimetco Administration Building break-in via front door weekend of May 10; no obvious disturbance noted. Front door dead-bolt lock replaced.

#### Other Site Activities

- M. Robb and K. Akuoko (Ascendant Copper) and E. Foster (Millennium Excavating) inspection of Arimetco plant facilities May 13.
- Nadia Holland-Burke (EPA) site visit May 15.
- R. Thun (ARC), T. Patton (Quattera), M. Amodei (NMA) and M. Meier and G. Johnson (BLM) tour May 28.

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### Site Characterization

- Conducted Site-wide monthly groundwater elevation measurements on May 27-28.
- Continued monitoring of Yerington Pit Lake water levels, which increased from 4215.19 (4/30/08) to 4215.42 (5/28/08) feet amsl, a total gain of 0.23 feet during the month of May. During this period, a total of 0.86 inches of rain were recorded at the Site meteorological station (AM-6) over a 5 day period (5/23 to 5/27).
- Suzanne Miller, a home owner on Luzier Lane, was notified that the uranium sampling results for her domestic well, identified as DW-131, was less than 10 ppb and therefore not eligible for the bottled water program.. An additional home owner, Sarah Mayes, located on Locust Lane requested that her well be sampled, which will occur in June in conjunction with the 2Q 2008 Site-Wide quarterly groundwater monitoring event.
- Continued meteorological monitoring at AM-6.
- Completed the Air Quality Monitoring Data Summary Report, which was submitted to EPA and others on May 29.
- Continued the initial assessment of pit highwall stability conditons to determine areas of potential health and safety concerns relative to the implementation of the Draft Pit Lake RI Work Plan.
- Submitted the Site-Wide Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP – Revision 3) to EPA on May 8.
- Continued preparation of the baseline human health risk assessment (HHRA) work plan for the inhalation pathway, including the preparation of exposure point concentration risk estimates, based on the data collected during the 3-year AQM program
- Continued compilation and analysis of Hydrologic Framework Assessment (HFA) data for inclusion in the Data Summary Report.
- Assessed the feasibility of using direct push technology (i.e., geoprobe) for use in future Site investigations on May 7. Based on the results of three test holes located in the Process Area (total depth or TD = 20 feet), sulfide tailings (TD = 55 feet) and alluvial soils at the north end of the Site near AM-6 (TD = 20 feet), this method was determined to be a viable method for conducting subsurface remedial investigations at the Site.
- ARC Representatives attended a technical meeting on May 28 to: 1) review radiological data collected by EPA in the Process Areas; and 2) and discuss the USFWS observations of migratory birds in the northern portion of the Site. USFWS has requested that a mitigation plan be put in place by both EPA and ARC in the September 2008 time frame.

### **Planned June-July 2008 Activities**

- Continue routine O&M and Site security activities.
- Measure monthly water levels in monitor wells and daily pit lake water levels.
- Conduct 2Q 2008 Site-wide groundwater monitoring, including the sampling of domestic wells.
- Continue meteorological monitoring at AM-6.
- Submit the Draft Baseline HHRA Work Plan for the Inhalation Pathway.
- Continue preparation of the Second Step Hydrologic Framework Assessment Data Summary Report.
- Continue analysis of observed pit slope stability conditions associated with the health and safety aspects of implementing the Draft Pit Lake RI Work Plan.
- Continue preparation of the Draft Evaporation Ponds and Sulfide Tailings (OU-4) and Waste Rock (OU-5) RI Work Plans.
- As received, respond to EPA comments on previous submittals required under the Order and attached SOW (e.g., Draft Groundwater RI, Process Areas RI and Draft Pit Lake RI Work Plans, Draft Site-Wide Groundwater Monitoring Plan).

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If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (661) 287-3855 or via e-mail at [Roy.Thun@bp.com](mailto:Roy.Thun@bp.com).

Sincerely,



Roy Thun  
Environmental Business Manager

cc: Dave Seter, EPA – via electronic mail  
Mike Montgomery, EPA – via electronic mail  
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Tom Dunkelman – via electronic mail  
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Dan Newell, City of Yerington Manager – via electronic mail  
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