



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

February 8, 2001

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

C.T. Bounds. R.E.M.
Albemarle Corporation
P.O. Box 729
Magnolia, Arkansas 71754-0729
Dear Mr. Bounds:

This letter responds to your December 18, 2000 letter, as well as a follow-up telephone conversation, requesting guidance regarding the reporting requirements of section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). Specifically, your letter asks for guidance about the section 313 reporting requirements for remote supply wells.

According to your letter, a chemical manufacturing plant (SIC code 2819 "Industrial Inorganic Chemicals, Not Elsewhere Classified") is served by a system of remote brine supply wells (SIC code activity 1474. "Salines mining except common salt"). Your letter states that the system of wells draws sodium bromide brine from a deep geologic formation and transports, via pipelines, this brine to the chemical manufacturing plant. At the manufacturing plant the sodium bromide in the brine is converted to elemental bromine. The bromine is then separated from the brine and the brine ("now depleted of bromide ion") is returned to the geologic formation of its origin by way of a separate system of pipelines and injection wells. Your letter provides that the supply wells and the pipelines extending beyond the manufacturing plant's property are generally located on leased property. According to your letter, the supply wells are spaced at least a half mile apart and some may be separated by several miles. The collection of supply wells are known as a "brine field" and the brine field covers more than 100 square miles.

As you know, if the brine well sites and the chemical manufacturing site are either contiguous or adjacent then the brine well sites and the chemical manufacturing site constitute one facility for EPCRA section 313 reporting purposes. (*See* definition of "facility" at EPCRA section 329 and 40 CFR section 372.3.) Based on the information provided by your letter the wells and the manufacturing plant appear to constitute one facility because the pipelines connecting the wells to the manufacturing plant are located on leased property, thereby making the well sites and the manufacturing plant contiguous sites, and therefore, one facility. Accordingly, chemical activity threshold determinations and release and other waste management calculations need to be based on activities taking place at the entire facility, the manufacturing plant and its wells. Therefore, the bromine manufactured from the sodium bromide should be considered toward the facility's manufacturing activity threshold determination for bromine. Similarly, any toxic chemicals used to maintain the wells should be considered toward the facility's otherwise use thresholds for those chemicals.

I hope this information is helpful to you in understanding the reporting requirements of section 313 of EPCRA. If you have any other questions, or desire further information, please call Larry Reisman. of my staff, at 202.260.2301.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria J. Doa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Maria J. Doa, Ph.D., Director
Toxics Release Inventory Program Division