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FYI



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January 25, 1994

REC'D
OFFICE OF POLLUTION
PREVENTION AND TOXICS
94 FEB -2 AM 11:14

Document Processing Center 7408
Attention: TSCA Section 8(e) FYI Coordinator
Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20460



Re: "FYI" Submission

849400000008

Dear Sir or Madam:

On December 24, 1993, Hewlett-Packard Company ("HP") learned of the presence of trichloroethylene ("TCE"), CAS No. 79-01-6, in groundwater at a former HP facility located at Route 41 and Starr Road, Avondale, Pennsylvania. The chemical was discovered as a result of testing from monitoring wells installed as part of a routine environmental investigation prior to the potential sale of the property. Upon discovery, HP promptly notified the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources and the Chester County Health Department, and began investigating to determine whether the contamination presents a risk to human health or the environment.

HP's subsequent investigation included testing of the eighteen private drinking water wells adjacent to or close to the site. Test reports received by HP from January 5, 1994 onward show TCE concentrations in two of the eighteen wells of 140 ppb and 190 ppb, respectively, and no detectable amounts of TCE in the remaining sixteen wells. Each of the two wells serves a single household. The same tests also disclosed four other VOC's, all below Maximum Contaminate Level ("MCL"), in these two wells and one of the remaining sixteen wells. HP promptly provided the test results to the state and local authorities, notified the homeowners, and installed filtration devices at the homes served by the two wells in which TCE was detected.

HP believes that these groundwater contamination data would not reasonably support a conclusion of a substantial risk to human health or the environment. First, of the eighteen wells tested, only two showed the presence of chemicals above MCL. Second, although these wells are outside the site boundaries, both these wells and the sixteen other wells which were tested and which showed no detectable VOC's (in fifteen cases) or VOC's below MCL (in one case) are in the immediate vicinity of the site. Thus, the contamination does not appear to be widespread. Finally, since filtration systems have been installed, there presently is no known risk to human health.

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HP confirmed in a conversation through counsel with Mr. Richard Hefter on Friday, January 21, 1994, that the above data do not appear to be "substantial risk" information that require reporting under Section 8(e) of the Toxic Substances Control Act. Nevertheless, we are submitting the data for your information.

Please direct any further questions regarding this information either to the undersigned or to:

Daniel F. Raider, Esq.
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Yours truly,


C. D. Trent
TSCA Program Manager

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