

# Atlantic Richfield Company

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March 8, 2013

## **CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Ms. Jere Johnson  
Remedial Project Manager  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street, SFD-9-1  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**Subject: February 2013 Monthly Report, Yerington Mine Site, Lyon County, Nevada: Administrative Order for Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS), CERCLA Docket No. 9-2007-0005; Administrative Order on Consent, CERCLA Docket No. 09-2009-0010**

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Pursuant to the above referenced orders issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 9 (EPA), Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) has prepared this February 2013 monthly report for RI/FS and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) activities at the Yerington Mine Site (Site).

### **February 2013 Activities**

#### Site Security and O&M Activities

- Continued Site O&M, security and bird deterrent activities. Security cameras at various locations (e.g., Main and Arimetco gates, entrances to buildings) indicated no activity of concern. Several 'Danger-Keep Out' signs were damaged by weather, and replacement signage was ordered.
- Use of the generator-powered Wind Dancer on the Lined Evaporation Pond (LEP) continued, the Wind Dancer at the Slot Pond remained in service, and the Wind Dancers at the Pumpback Well System (PWS) Pond remained out of service pending the supply of electrical power. Propane cannons were operated at the Arimetco Fluid Management System (FMS) ponds with the exception of the VLT Pond, as directed by EPA. Birdgard towers 'A', 'B' and 'C' around the PWS and LEP remained operational (the battery in Birdgard tower 'C' was replaced). Start/stop times on all propane cannons continued to be adjusted to reflect the changing timing of sunrise and sunset. The use of Helikites, commercial Mylar balloons and predator bird decoys was suspended as planned in late February in response to warmer weather. Additional flag blocks were placed around the LEP, PWS Pond and Slot Pond to have more flexibility in changing the location of bird deterrent flags, and new bird mitigation flags were ordered. Replaced the barrier rope and flagging around the propane cannons. Received new 'bird banger' pyrotechnic devices, and conducted refresher training on their use.
- Additional bird hazing efforts continued in February including the deployment of a generator operated wind dancer located on the middle lined pond, Helikites on the FMS and LEP, commercial Mylar balloons and predator bird decoys on the FMS and middle lined pond. During late February the site experienced warmer temperatures causing the Weed Heights sewer ponds and off-Site habitat areas to thaw.
- No measurable water in the PWS Evaporation Pond cells was observed by the end of February.

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## **February 2013 Activities - Continued**

### Site Security and O&M Activities - Continued

- Arimetco FMS pond levels: Phase 1 Pond = 3.46 feet; FMS Evaporation Pond = 8.78 feet; VLT Pond = 10.20 feet; Slot 2 Pond = 9.59 feet. Drain-down from the Mega Sumps continued to be diverted to the VLT Pond to allow testing of the new VLT Pond transfer pump. Flows from the Mega Sumps are planned to be diverted to the FMS pond on March 1. No other fluid transfers occurred during February. See attached FMS monitoring data.
- Approximately 216,256 gallons of solution were pumped from the leak detectors in February, including 25,866 gallons from SD2 near the Slot Pond and approximately 190,000 gallons from VLTD1 at the VLT Pond (see attached monitoring data). A total of approximately 420,005 gallons of solution has been pumped from the leak detectors since January 1. The VLT D-1 leak detector pump was replaced. On February 28, approximately 40 gallons of solution was pumped from the Phase III FX leak detector, which had not been previously observed (the flow rate was approximately two gpm).
- A second leak detector pump in the VLT collection ditch experienced a premature failure. Discussions continued with EPA on: 1) completing the VLT Pond and ditch repair construction including the VLT pump system; and 2) direction from EPA for O&M requirements including the Phase III-4X and VLT collection ditches.
- Provided piping replacement details for the Slot Pond pump (cracked flange on a reducer), which will improve operator access and winter drainage capability.
- Continued arc flash investigation and labeling of the on-Site electrical system.

### Other Site Activities

- Shipped approximately 10 cubic yards of petroleum-contaminated soils to the US Ecology landfill in Beatty NV on February 7 (these non-hazardous wastes resulted from implementation of the VLT Transformer soil cleanup and the Process Areas sub-surface utility/dry well investigation). This work was performed by Belshire Transport and Desert Engineering.

### Site Characterization Activities

- Monthly groundwater elevation measurements were obtained February 26-28.
- A pit lake water elevation of 4229.29 feet above mean sea level (amsl) was recorded on February 26, 2013 from the pressure transducer, an increase of 0.39 feet since January 24, 2013. The pit lake elevation has risen approximately 1.87 feet since February 26, 2012.
- The status of DW-177 changed from "Yes" to "Outstanding", as the owner underwent foreclosure.
- No new residences were added to the Bottled Water Program.
- Transmitted the 2012 Annual Domestic Well Monitoring Report (DWMR) on February 8.
- Continued the compilation of 4Q 2012 groundwater monitoring data for inclusion in the annual report. Conducted the 1Q 2013 groundwater monitoring event.
- Continued coordination and tracking of hydrologic tracer data from 2Q 2012 samples.
- Initiated Phase II field activities on February 25 for the Process Areas (OU-3) Sub-Surface Utility and Dry Well Investigation. Investigations continued through the end of the month.
- Transmitted OU-3 RI Work Plan review comments to EPA on February 1, and attended a technical meeting on February 20 to discuss the RI Work Plan, and ARC and YPT comments.
- Routine database management activities and support of Site investigations and reports. Completed annual database checks, and 4Q 2012 sample date/time updates.

## **Planned March/April 2013 Activities**

### Site Security and O&M Activities

- Continue routine Site O&M, security and bird deterrent activities.
- Meet with SPS to review electrical system arc flash investigation results and actions.

## Planned March/April 2013 Activities - Continued

### Site Characterization Activities

- Continue groundwater elevation and pit lake level measurements, and meteorological monitoring.
- Continue the Bottled Water Program.
- Complete and transmit the 2012 Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report.
- Perform the 1Q 2013 domestic well monitoring event.
- Initiate the compilation of 1Q 2013 groundwater and domestic well data.
- Review EPA and YPT comments on the revised Site-Wide Groundwater (OU-1) RI Work Plan that were transmitted on February 27, and attend a technical meeting on March 5-7 to discuss the RI Work Plan and associated comments.
- Continue remaining Phase II geophysical and soil investigations associated with sub-surface utilities in the Process Areas. Initiate summaries of the sub-surface investigations.
- Initiate the development of field sampling and analysis plans for select aspects of the OU-3 RI Work Plan, as discussed in the February 20 technical meeting.
- Review data quality objectives for the Wabuska Drain (OU-7) RI Work Plan when received.

Please contact me at (714) 228-6774 or via e-mail at [jack.oman@bp.com](mailto:jack.oman@bp.com) if you have any questions or comments about the February 2013 monthly report.

Sincerely,



Jack Oman  
Project Manager

### Attachment

cc: Dave Seter, EPA – via electronic mail  
Harry Ball, EPA – via electronic mail  
Andrew Helmlinger, EPA – via electronic mail  
Tom Dunkelman, EPA – via electronic mail  
Greg Lovato, NDEP – via electronic mail  
Jeryl Gardner, NDEP – via electronic mail  
Tom Olsen, BLM – via electronic mail  
Dan Newell, City of Yerington – via electronic mail  
Phyllis Hunewill – via electronic mail  
Virgil Arellano, Lyon County Commissioner – via electronic mail  
Rob Loveberg, Lyon County Planning Department – via electronic mail  
Tom Grady, Nevada State Assembly – via electronic mail  
Jim Sanford, MVEC – via electronic mail  
Lauryne Wright, YPT – via electronic mail  
Chairman Stevens, YPT – via electronic mail  
Dietrick McGinnis, McGinnis and Associates – via electronic mail  
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