

# Atlantic Richfield Company

**Roy I. Thun**  
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March 6, 2007

## **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: February 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 (EPA), please note the following monthly status report for Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) activities at the Yerington Mine Site during February 2008.

### Operations, Maintenance and Site Security

- Continued routine site O&M and security activities.
- Pumpback well system: 1) averaged approximately 46 gpm; all 11 wells operated 24/7 with minor downtime for preventive maintenance (wells PW-3, PW-4, PW-6, PW-7 and PW-11). 2) Evaporation pond levels: North cell = 2.0 feet; Middle cell = 1.7 feet; South cell = 1.9 feet.
- Arimetco heap leach fluid management system (FMS) operations: 1) Total estimated gallons transferred from VLT Pond to Evaporation Pond = 322,000 gallons; SSP to Evaporation Pond = 0 gallons; Raff sump to Phase 1 Pond = 39,300 gallons; Phase 1 Pond to Evaporation Pond = 97,500 gallons. 2) Pond levels: Evaporation Pond = 6.25 feet; VLT Pond = 4.5 feet; Slot 2 Pond = 15 feet; Phase I Pond = 1.5 feet; Plant Feed <3 feet; and Mega pond <1 foot.
- Fencing: 120 foot x 6 ft chain link security fence replaced on Birch Dr by EW Plant February 6.

### Other Site Activities

- Ilka Dinkelman (CH2M Hill) and Kris Urquhart (NDOW) on site February 6.
- Toni Wagner (USFWS) and Kris Urquhart (NDOW) on site February 13 and 14.
- James Harter (USFWS) on site February 17-22.

### Site Issues

- Additional mortalities of several birds in Arimetco/EPA FMS ponds.
- Pond levels approaching minimum freeboard limit in selected FMS ponds.

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### Site Characterization

- Completed site-wide monthly groundwater elevation measurements on February 26-27.
- Conducted meteorological monitoring and continuous PM10 monitoring at AM-1, AM-3 and AM-6. Submitted 4Q 2007 Air Quality Monitoring Report to EPA on February 29.
- Continued preparation of the draft Data Summary Report for the Background Soils Work Plan, including statistical analysis of the data sets for metals and radiochemicals.
- Met with EPA on February 13 to discuss revisions to the Site Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and related issues.
- Discussed availability of remaining radiological survey data with EPA.
- Completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Step HFA drilling, zonal sampling and well installation program for all locations identified in the Work Plan with the exception of B/W-16-S and -16I (limited saturated thickness), B/W-17 (proposed re-located site not useful per EPA concurrence), B/W-22S (limited saturated thickness), B/W-23D (limited saturated thickness), B/W-24 (no water, refusal), and piezometers WCDP-1 and WDP-1 (no access agreements). Monitor wells completed include B/W-27D, B/W-27S, B/W-24 (dry hole, abandoned), B/W-18I, B/W-18S and B/W-4S (re-drill and construction due to faulty well construction observed during well development). Development for new monitor wells continued including B/W-23D, B/W-29D, B/W-1S, B/W-11I, B/W-5S, WRP-1, WRP-2, B/W-9I, B/W-11S, B/W-9S, B/W-20, B/W-5D, B/W-5I, B/W-19I, B/W-19S, B/W-4I, B/W-3I, B/W-2I, B/W-3S, B/W-25I, B/W-25S, B/W-10S, B/W-21, B/W-8S, B/W-6S, B/W-28S, and B/W-28I.
- Continued evaluation of HFA data including zonal sample and groundwater elevation data and hydrologic tracer data, and preparation of borehole/well construction logs.
- Developed direct push borehole investigation recommendation for the shallow aquifer surrounding B/W-18 which will be subject of a future focused technical meeting.
- Continued compilation of the wildlife data report.

### Planned March-April 2008 Activities

- Continue routine O&M and site security activities, and prepare annual O&M report for 2007 for submittal to EPA by March 31.
- Continue the revised air quality monitoring (AQM) program through the end of March, and terminate the field program after EPA approval.
- Calculate upwind and downwind concentrations based on existing AQM data.
- Initiate preparation of a baseline human health risk assessment work plan based on the accumulated AQM data.
- Submit annual Site-Wide Groundwater Monitoring Report for 2007 to EPA by March 31.
- Continue pit lake and groundwater elevation measurements.
- Continue preparation of the 2007 Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report, and submit to EPA by March 31. Conduct the 1Q 2007 site-wide groundwater monitoring event in mid-March.
- Continue the 2<sup>nd</sup> Step HFA program through the end of March including well development and surveys, and complete the remaining slug tests in April. Continue preparation of the Second-Step HFA Data Summary Report.
- Finalize the Draft Background Soils Data Summary Report for March 31 submittal to EPA.
- Continue preparation of the Draft Wildlife Field Summary Report for March 31 submittal to EPA.
- Finalize responses to EPA comments on the QAPP (Revision 2), receive additional information from EPA, and submit the revised QAPP and associated responses to comments to EPA.

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Planned March-April 2008 Activities (continued)

- 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).

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  
Sheryl Bilbrey, EPA – via electronic mail  
Joe Sawyer, NDEP – via electronic mail  
Tom Olsen, BLM – via electronic mail  
Dan Newell, City of Yerington Manager – via electronic mail  
Phyllis Hunewill, Lyon County Commissioner – via electronic mail  
Dennis Stark, Lyon County Manager – via electronic mail  
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