



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

September 29, 2005

Bruce Wolfe
Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Francisco Bay Region
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Five-Year Review Report for the Applied Materials Building 1, 3050 Bowers Ave.
Superfund Site, Santa Clara, CA

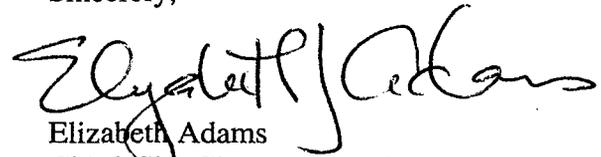
Dear Mr. Wolfe:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 (EPA) has reviewed the Third Five-Year Review Report for the Applied Materials Building 1, 3050 Bowers Ave. Superfund Site, Santa Clara, CA, prepared by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, dated September 29, 2005. This Five-Year Review was conducted as a matter of EPA policy because cleanup of the site will take five years or more to complete (see OSWER No.9355. 7-03B-P, Comprehensive Five-Year Review Guidance, June 2001). The review addresses remedial actions taken pursuant to the September 1990 Record of Decision for the site. EPA concurs that the groundwater remedy for the Applied Materials Building 1 site currently protects human health and the environment because the remedial actions are protective. However, even though VOC concentrations are relatively low, they are not declining any further. Since it could take a long time to achieve cleanup goals through natural attenuation processes alone, Applied Materials should consider other, more aggressive remedial actions, such as in-situ bioremediation, to cleanup residual VOC concentrations. Applied Materials should continue to monitor groundwater, while considering other alternative remedies. After alternative remedies are assessed, the RWQCB should determine if the technology should be incorporated into the groundwater remedy. Also, Applied Materials should develop a proposal and timeline for State and Agency review that outlines how the site will achieve the groundwater clean-up goals.

In addition, a title search was not completed to ensure that the groundwater use deed restriction is recorded and on the chain of title. Therefore, compliance with the deed restriction could not be confirmed. A title search to confirm the location and the date of the deed restriction should be conducted for the next Five-Year Review.

The next Five-Year Review for the Applied Materials Building 1 site will be due by September 30, 2010. EPA appreciates the opportunity to work with you on this report. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Penelope McDaniel of my staff at 415-972-3178.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Adams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elizabeth" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Adams".

Elizabeth Adams
Chief, Site Cleanup Branch
Superfund Division, US EPA