

# Atlantic Richfield Company

**Roy I. Thun**  
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August 6, 2009

## **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: July 2009 Monthly Report, Yerington Mine Site, Lyon County, Nevada:  
Administrative Order for Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, EPA Docket  
No. 9-2007-0005 and EPA Docket No. 09-2009-0010**

Dear Ms. Hollan Burke:

Pursuant to the above referenced orders issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 9 (EPA), please note the following monthly status report for Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) RI/FS and removal action activities at the Yerington Mine Site (Site) during July 2009.

### **July 2009 Activities**

#### Operations, Maintenance and Site Security

- Continued routine Site O&M, security and bird deterrent activities including operation of the propane cannons for the Arimetco ponds (the VLT Pond cannon is not currently operating per EPA direction).
- The pumpback well system (PWS) planned 1-year shutdown for hydrogeologic characterization continued. PWS evaporation pond levels: North Cell <1.00 feet (minimum staff gauge level recorded April 16, 2009); Middle Cell = 0 feet; South Cell < 0.1 feet. Uncorrected pan evaporation for the month of July was 16.20 inches; the Site received 0.30 inches of precipitation.
- Arimetco heap leach fluid management system (FMS): 1) Total estimated gallons transferred from VLTSP Pond to Evaporation Pond = 0 gallons; SSP to Evaporation Pond = 0 gallons; Phase 1 Pond to Evaporation Pond = 0 gallons; 2) Pond levels: Phase 1 Pond = <1.0 foot; Evaporation Pond = 5 feet; VLT Pond = 8.5 feet; Slot 2 Pond = 14.75 feet.
- Chain link fence damaged by vehicle accident on the Southside of Burch drive was replaced.
- A VLT electrical service line pole and guy wires damaged by wind were repaired by Desert Engineering and Fawcett Electric personnel on July 13-14. After the line was re-energized, the VLT pump was checked and found to be in satisfactory operating condition.
- Assessed slot pond pump operation and repairs and developed a plan to replace the pump. Replaced a gasket and turned on the suction line on the Phase I pond pump.
- Provided site safety orientation to CH2M Hill and a WDC drill crew on July 20 in support of an EPA drilling program associated with the Arimetco Facilities OU.

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## **July 2009 Activities - Continued**

### Other Site Activities

- Ilka Dinkelman of CH2M Hill and a WDC drill crew were on-Site beginning July 20 to conduct an approximate two-week drilling program. Ken Greene and John Tunks of CH2MHill were on Site July 27 to observe the drilling program.
- Jim Harvey of the USFWS was on Site to inspect all Site ponds.

### Site Characterization

- Site-wide monthly groundwater elevation measurements were obtained on July 28-29.
- A pit lake elevation of 4218.60 feet amsl was recorded on July 28 from the pressure transducer, an increase of 0.07 feet over the 30-day period since June 28. The increase from the previous year's measurement is unknown because the transducer was out of service during that time.
- Installed new well caps on 8 monitor wells. Repaired access route to two monitoring wells on the Ryan property.
- Conducted monthly groundwater monitoring associated with the temporary shutdown of the pumpback well system on July 13-16.
- Continued compilation of groundwater monitoring data, including monitor and domestic wells for inclusion in the 2Q 2009 monitoring report.
- Continued the evaluation of groundwater data generated from the PWS Characterization Work Plan and the Shallow Zone Characterization Work Plan.
- Initiated the development of the Supplemental PWS Characterization Work Plan to conduct aquifer testing and analysis of the pumpback wells.
- Continued meteorological (Met) monitoring at the AM-6 location. Conducted the semi-annual Met station calibration and completed the standard operation procedures (SOP) for the Met station.
- Continued Site wildlife surveys.

### AOC Removal Actions

- Continued preliminary engineering activities associated with the removal action for the inactive Anaconda Evaporation Ponds. Tri State Surveying completed a detailed survey of the Thumb Pond. Geotechnical testing of VLT samples was completed at the DB Stephens Laboratory (Albuquerque, NM) for use in the removal action design.
- Responded to EPA comments and submitted Final Potential Electrical Hazards Removal Work Plan (dated July 24, 2009), currently awaiting final EPA approval.
- Currently awaiting EPA comments on work plans for the following SOW deliverables: 1) draft Site O&M Plan (dated June 9, 2009); 2) draft Evaporation Ponds Removal Action Design Work Plan (dated June 12, 2009; attached to the Anaconda Evaporation Ponds Removal Action Data Summary Report); 3) draft Process Areas MARSSIM Characterization Work Plan (dated June 17, 2009); and 4) final Transite Pipe Removal Action Work Plan (dated June 30, 2009 including responses to EPA comments on the draft work plan received from EPA on June 15).

### **Site Issues**

- Non-Routine pumping continues from the Slot Pond Leak detection sump at a rate of approximately 1.2 gallons per minute (no surface expression of leak evident).
- Continued operation of SSP Pump at a reduced capacity.

### Planned August/September 2009 Activities

- Continue routine O&M, site security, and bird deterrent activities. Grade main access roads.
- Continue engineering activities associated with the removal action for the inactive Anaconda Evaporation Ponds, including Sub-Area A, and the design for the on-Site landfill for the management of transite pipe and other Site C&D materials.
- Respond to EPA comments to the draft versions, and prepare final versions of the following AOC/SOW deliverables: 1) Site O&M Plan; 2) Evaporation Ponds Removal Action Design Work Plan; and 3) Process Areas MARSSIM Characterization Work Plan.
- Upon EPA approval of the final Transite Pipe Removal Action Work Plan, perform transite pipe inspection and characterization activities including the sampling and analysis of pipe materials and radiometric survey.
- Upon EPA approval of the final Potential Electrical Hazards Removal Action Work Plan, initiate the removal action.
- Continue to compile groundwater data for the 2Q 2009 Groundwater Monitoring Report, the Shallow Zone Evaluation and the PWS assessment. Submit domestic well monitoring data to EPA to distribute to well owners.
- Continue groundwater elevation and pit lake level monitoring. Conduct monthly groundwater monitoring associated with the PWS Characterization Work Plan. Continue meteorological monitoring at AM-6.
- Meet with EPA on August 6 to discuss ARC-proposed modifications to the Process Areas RI Work Plan. Discuss with EPA on August 11 the HHRA Work 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy Thun" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Roy Thun  
Environmental Business Manager

cc: Dave Seter, EPA – via electronic mail  
Mike Montgomery, EPA – via electronic mail  
Roberta Blank, EPA – via electronic mail  
Andrew Helmlinger, EPA – via electronic mail  
Tom Dunkelman, EPA – via electronic mail  
Joe Sawyer, NDEP – via electronic mail  
Tom Olsen, BLM – via electronic mail  
Dan Newell, City of Yerington – via electronic mail  
Phyllis Hunewill, Lyon County Commissioner – via electronic mail  
Dennis Stark, Lyon County Manager – via electronic mail

Justin Whitesides, YPT – via electronic mail  
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