

# Atlantic Richfield Company

**Jack Oman**  
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February 2, 2010

## **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: January 2010 Monthly Report, Yerington Mine Site, Lyon County, Nevada: Administrative Order for Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, EPA Docket No. 9-2007-0005; Administrative Order on Consent, 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), Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) has prepared the following monthly report for RI/FS and removal action activities at the Yerington Mine Site (Site) during January 2010.

### **January 2010 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 with the exception of the VLT Pond, as directed by EPA. The bird guard towers were active due to water remaining in the ponds from precipitation events.
- The pumpback well system (PWS) shutdown continued. PWS evaporation pond levels: North Cell = 0.15 feet; Middle Cell = 0.27 feet; South Cell = 0.35 feet.
- Arimetco heap leach fluid management system (FMS): 1) total estimated gallons transferred from VLTSP Pond to the FMS Evaporation Pond = approximately 27,000 gallons; slot sediment pond (SSP) to the FMS Evaporation Pond = approximately 120,000 gallons. Phase 1 Pond to Evaporation Pond = 0 gallons; 2) Pond levels: Phase 1 Pond = 3.0 feet; Evaporation Pond = 6.50 feet; VLT Pond = 12.00 feet; Slot 2 Pond = 15.25 feet.
- Submitted PWS evaporation pond water balance information on January 8 to assist EPA in assessing the re-start of the pumpback wells.
- Replaced valves and pipe fusing on the VLT pad January 25-29.
- The Site received less than one inch of precipitation during January, and was muddy during much of the month.
- Provided the site safety orientation for Site visitors and workers.

#### Other Site Activities

Tom Dunkelman (EPA) was on site January 7.

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## **January 2010 Activities - Continued**

### Site Characterization

- Site-wide monthly groundwater elevation measurements were obtained on January 25-27. Pressure transducers were installed in W5DB-D and B/W-29 D-1 on January 27-28.
- A pit lake water elevation of 4220.04 feet amsl was recorded on January 27, 2010 from the pressure transducer, an increase of 0.495 feet since December 31, 2009. The pit lake elevation has risen 3.043 feet since January 27, 2009
- Continued meteorological monitoring at the AM-6 location including wind speed/direction, temperature, relative humidity, barometric pressure, precipitation and solar radiation.
- Continued work on the Human Health Risk Assessment for the Inhalation Pathway - Revision 3.
- Submitted the 3Q 2009 Groundwater Monitoring Report dated January 13.
- Continued to compile information for the 2009 Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report.
- Submitted 4Q 2009 domestic well analytical results on January 15 for EPA to distribute to well owners.
- Submitted the 2009 Annual Domestic Well Monitoring Report dated January 22, which included 4Q 2009 analytical results.
- Submitted responses on January 25 to EPA comments dated January 13 on the Draft Domestic Well Monitoring Plan (QAPP Addendum) dated December 11.
- Continued discussions regarding the PWS Characterization Work Plan Addendum and the 2010 groundwater monitor well installation program.
- Submitted the Draft 2010 Groundwater Monitor Well Work Plan dated January 15.
- Submitted the Shallow Zone Characterization Work Plan - Revision 1 dated January 29.
- Continued the preparation of access agreements for the revised domestic well sampling program to be implemented in 1Q 2010, and initiated access agreements for the 2010 monitor well borehole characterization and monitor well installation scope of work (access agreements will not be sent out until EPA provides written approval for these programs).
- Attended a stakeholder's meeting in Yerington on January 7, and a presentation by EPA to Lyon County and the City of Yerington on January 21.
- Continued Site wildlife surveys, maintenance of wildlife observation database and preparation of weekly wildlife observation report.

### AOC Removal Actions

- Submitted the Draft Transite Pipe Removal Action Plan on January 8.
- Submitted responses on January 6 to EPA and YPT comments on the Draft Process Areas Radiological Characterization Work Plan - Revision 1 dated September 28, 2009.
- Phase 1 of the Electrical Hazards Removal Action was completed January 13-19, which included: 1) the repair of a dangling wire on northeast power line; 2) removal of the south distribution power line and insulators; 3) removal of the Mega Pond pumping station control panel and transformer; and 4) removal of the Phase III Leach Pad power line and insulators. Continued discussions with NV Energy for removal of the 60 kV (5MW) substation.

### **Site Issues**

- Non-Routine pumping continues from the Slot Pond leak detection sump at a rate of approximately 1.5 gallons per minute. A surface expression of the leak adjacent to the Slot Pond continued in the form of frozen moisture.
- Muddy conditions resulting from melting snow and rain during the month of January necessitated extra precautions be taken for all site activities.

## **Planned February/March 2010 Activities**

### Site Characterization

- Continue Site wildlife surveys, maintenance of wildlife observation database and preparation of wildlife observation reports.
- Continue groundwater elevation and pit lake level monitoring. Continue meteorological monitoring at AM-6.
- Submit the 2009 Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report in February.
- Prepare for, and implement, the 1Q 2010 monitor well and domestic well sampling events.
- Pending approval by EPA of the PWS Characterization Work Plan Addendum - Revision 1 or modified approach, perform well rehabilitation and install piezometers.
- Prepare for the 2010 monitor well installation program.
- Respond to EPA comments on the Draft Process Areas Vadose Zone and Groundwater Characterization Work Plan submitted in December 2009.

### AOC Removal Actions

- Continue routine O&M, site security, and bird deterrent activities. As requested, support USFWS' contractor inspection activities during work week business hours.
- Continue to evaluate flow meters installed in the Arimetco FMS. Continue water balance calculations for the Arimetco FMS.
- Discuss the Draft Transite Pipe Removal Action Plan (RAP) with EPA.
- Conduct Phase 2 (trenching and burial of surface electrical lines) of the Electrical Hazards Removal Action in February and Phase 3 (installation of new power service to replace the Site substation) in late March (or early April).
- Continue discussions with EPA on the Process Areas Radiological Characterization Work Plan - Revision 1, and initiate a revised Work Plan.
- Upon receipt of revised EPA comments, provide responses to comments to the Draft Site O&M Plan and a revised O&M Plan.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (714) 228-6774 or via e-mail at [jack.oman@bp.com](mailto:jack.oman@bp.com).

Sincerely,



Jack Oman  
Project 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  
Richard Faber, Lyon County Facilities Engineering – via electronic mail  
Tom Grady, Nevada State Assembly – via electronic mail  
Justin Whitesides, YPT – via electronic mail  
Chairman Emm, YPT – via electronic mail  
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