

Atlantic Richfield Company

Jack Oman
Project Manager

4 Centerpointe Drive
LaPalma, CA. 90623-1066
(714) 228-6774 office
(714) 670-5195 fax
jack.oman@bp.com

January 4, 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: December 2012 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 December 2012 monthly report for RI/FS and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) activities at the Yerington Mine Site (Site).

December 2012 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. Minor damage to the Tibbals landfill gate, located adjacent to the western margin of the Site, was noted by ARC and temporarily repaired by SPS.
- The Wind Dancer at the Slot Pond remained in service, while the Wind Dancers at the Pumpback Well System (PWS) Pond and the Lined Evaporation Pond (LEP) were not active. Propane cannons were operated at the Arimetco Fluid Management System (FMS) ponds with the exception of the VLT Pond, as directed by EPA. Locations of Wind Dancers and bird deterrent flags were rotated every two weeks, or as field observations dictated, to lessen the possibility of birds becoming habituated to these deterrents. Bird guard towers 'A', 'B' and 'C' around the pumpback and lined evaporation ponds were turned on due to snowfall and rain events that created incidental water in the ponds. Start/stop times on all propane cannons continued to be adjusted to reflect the changing timing of sunrise and sunset.
- Water levels in the north and middle cells of the PWS Evaporation Pond cells remained at 0 feet, and the south cell was 0.25 feet. Arimetco FMS pond levels: Phase 1 Pond = 3.13 feet; FMS Evaporation Pond = 8.87 feet; VLT Pond = 7.81 feet; Slot 2 Pond = 7.73 feet. Freeboard in the FMS Evaporation Pond was at 1.28 feet as of December 31. FMS Evaporation Pond levels and freeboard values were adjusted in December due to the replacement of the pressure transducer and the dissolution of salts within the pond. No fluid transfers occurred in December. See attached monitoring data.
- EPA continues to retain operational and monitoring control of the VLT Pond during the close-out period to re-establish electrical, pumping and monitoring systems to return the pond to substantially complete operational status.

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December 2012 Activities - Continued

Site Security and O&M Activities - Continued

- Approximately 279,458 gallons were pumped from the leak detectors in December (primarily from VLTD1 at 249,270), bringing the cumulative 2012 total to 649,338 gallons. The December value is approximately an order of magnitude greater than the average monthly value for the first 11 months of 2012. See attached monitoring data. As requested by EPA, ARC monitored leak detectors VLTP1 and VLTD1 during the VLT Pond close-out period.

Other Site Activities

- As a result of B.V. Nevada demolition activities, scrap wood has been placed in a designated area on the Sulfide Tailings. SPS and B.V. Nevada have discussed burning or shredding the accumulated scrap wood.

Site Characterization Activities

- Monthly groundwater elevation measurements were obtained December 17-20. YPT-MW-15 was developed, and a bladder pump was installed, on December 10.
- A pit lake water elevation of 4228.561 feet amsl was recorded on December 17 from the pressure transducer, an increase of 0.148 feet since November 26, 2012. The pit lake elevation has risen 2.03 feet since December 17, 2011.
- One new residence (DW-196) was added to the domestic well sampling program.
- No new residences were added to the Bottled Water Program.
- Continued to compile 3Q 2012 groundwater monitoring data. Initiated the compilation of 4Q domestic well and groundwater monitoring data.
- Continued the preparation of responses to comments and revisions to the 2010 Monitor Well and Ag Fields DSR dated August 12, 2011, based on EPA comments received November 23, 2011.
- Completed the preparation of responses to comments and revisions to the Aquifer Test DSR dated April 19, 2012, based on EPA comments received August 2, 2012. Transmitted the revised Aquifer Test DSR to EPA on December 14.
- Transmitted to EPA the Draft Groundwater Model Work Plan dated December 28, 2012.
- Continued coordination and tracking of hydrologic tracer data from 2Q 2012 samples.
- Continued the preparation of comments on the Final Process Areas (OU-3) RI Work Plan dated November 2012.
- Transmitted comments to EPA on the Arimetco Facilities (OU-8 Heap Leach Pads and Drain-Down Fluids) Human Health Risk Assessment on December 20.
- Routine database management activities and support of Site investigations and reports.

Planned January/February 2013 Activities

Site Security and O&M Activities

- Assume responsibility for FMS O&M after EPA completes close-out activities for the VLT Pond.
- Continue routine Site O&M, security and bird deterrent activities. Complete modifications to the Wind Dancers at the evaporation ponds and return them to service.
- Ship approximately 10 cubic yards of petroleum-contaminated soils to the US Ecology landfill in Beatty NV as non-hazardous non-DOT regulated solid waste resulting from implementation of the VLT Transformer soil cleanup and the Process Areas sub-surface utility/dry well investigation.

Site Characterization Activities

- Continue groundwater elevation and pit lake level measurements, and meteorological monitoring.
- Continue the Bottled Water Program.
- Transmit the 3Q 2012 groundwater monitoring report. Continue the compilation of data associated with 4Q 2012 domestic and groundwater monitoring events.
- Perform the 1Q 2013 groundwater monitoring event in February.
- Complete and transmit to EPA the revised 2011 DSR and responses to EPA comments.

Planned January/February 2013 Activities - Continued

Site Characterization Activities - Continued

- Review comments on the revised Site-Wide Groundwater (OU-1) RI Work Plan when received.
- Transmit responses to EPA comments on the Process Areas Sub-Surface Utility and Dry Well Geophysical Investigation Technical Memorandum, and requested figure modifications.
- Complete and transmit comments to EPA on the Process Areas (OU-3) RI Work Plan. Attend a meeting to discuss the RI Work Plan and ARC comments.
- Present current Site groundwater conditions at a Yerington Community Meeting, scheduled for January 31.
- 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 if you have any questions or comments about the December 2012 monthly report.

Sincerely,



Jack Oman
Project Manager

Attachment

cc: Dave Seter, EPA – via electronic mail
Roberta Blank, EPA – via electronic mail
Andrew Helmlinger, EPA – via electronic mail
Tom Dunkelman, EPA – via electronic mail
Greg Lovato, 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
Tom Bowden, Ridolfi, Inc. – via electronic mail
Chairwoman McFalls, WRPT – via electronic mail
Tad Williams, WRPT – via electronic mail
Ron Halsey, Atlantic Richfield Company – via electronic mail
James Lucari, Atlantic Richfield Company – via electronic mail
Marc Ferries, Atlantic Richfield Company – via electronic mail
Brian Johnson, Atlantic Richfield Company – via electronic mail
John Batchelder, EnviroSolve – via electronic mail
Jim Chatham, Atlantic Richfield Company – via electronic mail
Rich Curley, Curley and Associates, LLC – via electronic mail
Bill Duffy, Davis Graham & Stubbs – via electronic mail
Tom Patton, Singatse Peak Services, LLP – via electronic mail
Steve Dischler, Singatse Peak Services, LLP – via electronic mail
Trey Harbert, Singatse Peak Services, LLP – via electronic mail
George Eliopulos, Singatse Peak Services, LLP – via electronic mail

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Taurus Massey, Singatse Peak Services, LLP – via electronic mail
David Peri, Peri and Sons – via electronic mail
Ken Greene, CH2M Hill – via electronic mail
Victor Early, Tetra Tech – via electronic mail
Colin Lee, Tetra Tech – via electronic mail
Peggy Pauly, YCAG – via electronic mail
Lyon County Library System Central