

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER NO. 92-076  
AGAINST  
CITY OF BLYTHE  
PUBLIC WORKS YARD  
Blythe - Riverside County

The Executive Officer of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, finds that:

1. The City of Blythe (hereinafter referred to as the discharger) 220 North Spring, Blythe, California, 92225, is the owner and operator of the Public Works Yard located at 440 South Main Street, Blythe, California 92225.
2. The petroleum underground storage tanks located at the Public Works Yard were first permitted by County of Riverside Department of Environmental Health Services (CRDEHS) on April 29, 1986.
3. An Unauthorized Release Report form dated April 20, 1989 was filed by the CRDEHS due to a failure of an underground storage tank (UST) integrity test at the City of Blythe Public Works Yard.
4. By letter dated April 27, 1989 CRDEHS requested the discharger to conduct a complete subsurface investigation of the contamination and submit a technical report by May 30, 1989.
5. On August 1, 1989, CRDEHS received a report submitted by the discharger for a preliminary site assessment. The report showed elevated levels of petroleum hydrocarbons in the soil and ground water.
6. On December 13, 1989, CRDEHS received a report submitted by the discharger for additional site assessment. The report showed widespread elevated levels of hydrocarbons in the soil.
7. On January 5, 1990, CRDEHS received a report submitted by the discharger for additional site assessment. The report indicated elevated levels of total volatile hydrocarbons of 6,100 ppm and benzene levels of 51.7 ppm at 9.5 feet in and on the ground water.
8. On February 20, 1990, CRDEHS received a report detailing the UST closure at the site. Soil samples at the time of closure showed elevated levels of petroleum hydrocarbons.
9. By letter dated June 3, 1992, the discharger was requested to submit a quarterly status report. No reply was received.

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10. On June 24, 1992, CRDEHS personnel performed a site visit. At this time, ground water wells were found to contain large amounts of liquid phase hydrocarbons. The ground water well located downgradient and adjacent to the tank pit had 34 inches of liquid phase hydrocarbons on the groundwater.
11. Section 13304 of the California Water Code states, in part, that:

"Any person...who has caused or permitted...any waste to be discharged or deposited where it is, or probably will be, discharged into the waters of the State and creates, or threatens to create, a condition of pollution or nuisance, shall upon order of the regional board cleanup such waste or abate the effects thereof, or, in the case of threatened pollution or nuisance, take other necessary remedial action."
12. The discharger has caused or permitted the discharge of waste or petroleum hydrocarbons into the waters of the State and created a condition of pollution.
13. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California was adopted May 15, 1991 and designates the beneficial uses of ground and surface waters in this Region.
14. The beneficial uses of ground waters in the Colorado Hydrologic Unit are:
  - a. Municipal supply (MUN)
  - b. Industrial supply (IND)
  - c. Agricultural supply (AGR)
15. Contamination of the ground water with hydrocarbons will significantly impair the beneficial uses of the ground water.
16. This enforcement action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15308 and 15321, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that pursuant to Sections 13304 and 13267 of the California Water Code, the discharger, their agents or assigns, shall cleanup and abate the effects of the discharge of petroleum hydrocarbons by complying with the following:

1. The following shall be submitted to the CRDEHS and the Regional Board by the dates given:
  - A. December 1, 1992 - Submit a workplan to the CRDEHS and Regional Board for review and acceptance. The workplan will include, but not be limited to, a description of the activities by which tasks 1 through 5 as outlined below, will be completed. Off-site remediation is currently in progress, the said workplan shall summarize completed work at the site.
    1. Fully delineate the vertical and lateral extent of contamination of the soil and ground water at the subject site.
    2. Characterize the site hydrology such that an adequate assessment of contamination migration pathways can be made.
    3. Evaluate actual or potential off-site migration of contaminants and methods to mitigate or prevent such an occurrence.
    4. Perform any necessary interim remediation to remove free product contamination.
    5. Remediate all soil and ground water contamination at the subject site which resulted from the petroleum hydrocarbon leak described in this Order.
  - B. February 1, 1993 - Submit a progress report which details the progress being made toward the goals outlined in the workplan, including progress towards obtaining proper permits for the work.
  - C. March 1, 1993 - Submit another progress report as stated above in B
  - D. April 1, 1993 - Submit a technical report containing the results of work requested above in A.
  - E. May 1, 1993 - Submit a proposal to remediate all soil and ground water contamination at the subject site which resulted from the leaks described in the Order to contamination levels deemed acceptable to the Regional Board's Executive officer.
  - F. June 1, 1993 - Implement the cleanup plan to remediate all soil and ground water contamination at the subject site. Cleanup efforts shall continue until such time that the Regional Board's Executive Officer considers the site to be remediated to the fullest extent possible, based on the then current best available technology.

2. All technical and monitoring reports required in conjunction with this Order are required pursuant to Section 13267 of the California Water code and shall include a statement by the discharger or an authorized representative of the discharger certifying under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the report is true, complete and accurate.
3. All technical reports submitted to CRDEHS and this Regional Board for consideration shall be prepared by a qualified professional who is registered as a civil engineer, or certified as an engineering geologist in the State of California.
4. Failure to comply with the provision of this Order may subject you to further enforcement action including, but not limited to, assessment of civil liability pursuant to Section 13323 and 13350 of Division 7, Article 25, of the California Water code, and referral for injunctive relief and civil or criminal liability.

*Phil Guenher*

Executive Officer

10-14-92

Date