

Detterman, Mark, Env. Health

From: Markus Niebanck [mniebanck@ci.emeryville.ca.us]
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2009 3:05 PM
To: Detterman, Mark, Env. Health
Cc: Maurice Kaufman; Helen Bean
Subject: Case RO0000061 - 6303 Hollis Street, Emeryville

Mark:

The City has received correspondence from your agency regarding the historic environmental case at the above-captioned location. In your letter dated July 24, 2009 you state that the monitoring wells at this site have not been sampled since March 1997 and direct the City to initiate a semi-annual sampling program.

Respectfully, what the July letter does not mention is the fact that consultants for the City conducted a RBCA analysis and submitted a petition for closure in 1998. My file and your electronic resource do not contain a response to this request.

Two tanks (one gasoline and one diesel) were removed from this property in 1995. Evaluative efforts before and after tank removal found the presence of low concentrations of fuel hydrocarbons in the immediate vicinity of the gasoline tank. An environmental investigation ensued and a recommendation for case closure was filed in 1998.

My review of the file indicates that the request for closure in 1998 was reasonable, and that any residual hydrocarbons in place would certainly have diminished markedly over the course of the 11 years that passed between the RFC and your recent request for sampling – making closure consideration an even more appropriate course of action today.

As we've discussed before – we take our responsibility seriously and desire to do all appropriate to protect health and the environment. In your review of the older case files we expect that we may find some that warrant closer scrutiny or even active attention to bring them to their desired conclusion. This case, however, does not fit this bill. Respectfully, the fact that no sampling has occurred since the 1998 request for closure does not make this location an automatic candidate for additional testing. Its characterization was sufficiently complete then, and conditions could only have improved since. I believe it would instead be most expedient, based on all facts, to evaluate this file for immediate closure.

I am available to discuss this further on the telephone or in your office. I'll do whatever I can to help clear this backlog.

Thanks for your help.

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