

ALAMEDA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE SERVICES

AGENCY
DAVID J. KEARS, Agency Director



R072

7 August 1991

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
Hazardous Materials Program
80 Swan Way, Rm. 200
Oakland, CA 94621
(415)

Ron Knuston
Atlantic Richfield Company
2000 Alameda de las Pulgas
San Mateo, CA 94403

Subject: Preliminary Tank Replacement Report for 889 West Grand
Avenue, Oakland.

Dear Mr. Knuston:

Thank you for the analytical report dated 1 July 1991 and prepared by Gettler-Ryan Incorporated regarding the site listed above. This Preliminary Tank Replacement Report has been reviewed. This agency would like to express some commentary concerning the work conducted to date.

This office approved the proposed plan for the removal and replacement of the underground storage tanks at this location on 2 May 1991. Shortly thereafter, an unauthorized release report was submitted by Arco Products Company regarding this site. This release report stated that floating product had been detected in a ground water monitoring well. The release report further stated that this well was to be pumped on the 10th of May 1991.

The Preliminary Tank Replacement Report describes the installation of soil borings and the abandonment of the ground water monitoring well. Four of the five soil borings detected significant levels of contamination at depths of approximately ten feet. Ground water is reported at a depth is 13.5 feet.

The report makes no mention of water or free product having ever been pumped from the well that was abandoned. Other than the unauthorized release report this office has no documentation concerning the pumping of this well. Based on the close proximity

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Re. 889 West Grand Ave Oakland
7 August 1991
Page 2 of 2

of this well to the tanks to be closed and the highly contaminated soils identified by the borings, the decision to fill this well with concrete was questionable. The presence of this concrete filled well will not facilitate the closure/remediation process, but rather hinder the physical excavation of contaminated soils in the vicinity. Had this agency been provided an opportunity to comment on this action prior to its implementation we would have recommended an expedited closure of the tanks as opposed to abandonment of the well.

The discovery of floating product in the monitoring well coupled with the soil contamination measured in the borings installed during the preliminary tank replacement study argue for the expedited closure of the tanks on this site. As a period of three months has passed since approval was granted for the closure plan submitted for this purpose this agency sees no reason for further delay. Please communicate to your contractor, Gettler-Ryan, the need for a timely implementation of this tank closure.

Please instruct your contractor to coordinate the tank removal date with myself and the Oakland Fire Prevention Bureau at the earliest mutually convenient time. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have concerning this matter and can be reached at (415) 271-4320.

Sincerely,


Dennis J. Byrne
Senior Hazardous Materials Specialist

cc: Mark Thompson, Alameda County District Attorney's Office,
Consumer and Environmental Protection Division
Lester Feldman, SFBRWQCB
Rafat Shahid, Assistant Director, Alameda County Department of
Environmental Health.
Keith Bullock, Gettler-Ryan Inc.
Paul Wilton, Barghausen Consulting Engineers