

ALAMEDA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE SERVICES

AGENCY
DAVID J. KEARS, Agency Director



R02454

RAFAT A. SHAHID, Assistant Agency Director

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
Hazardous Materials Division
80 Swan Way, Rm. 200
Oakland, CA 94621
(510) 271-4320

February 23, 1993

Richard Hiett
Regional Water Quality Control Board
2101 Webster St., 4th Floor
Oakland CA 94612

RE: Helmut Motors
82 A St.
Hayward CA 94541
REQUEST FOR SITE CLOSURE

Dear Mr. Hiett:

In December of 1990, Richard Faber, owner of Helmut Motors, filed an Unauthorized Release Report as a result of oil and grease contamination found beneath a former waste oil tank at the site. Below, in chronological order, is a summary of the tank removal and remediation activities that have occurred at the site:

1. October, 1990 - Gasoline and waste oil tanks were removed. Significant levels of oil and grease were found in native soils at (370 to 640 ppm) at a depth of 4 to 5 feet.
2. November, 1990 - An additional 1 - 2' of soil was excavated from the waste oil pit and a confirmatory sample was taken at a depth of about 6 feet. This sample was found to contain 59 ppm of oil and grease.
3. January, 1991 - Additional soil was excavated from the tank pit. A confirmatory sample was taken from the bottom of the tank pit at about 7 feet. This sample was analyzed for Total Oil and Grease and BTEX components. No detectable contamination was found.

Recently, the property owner, Richard Faber, asked that the site be considered for closure. Data gaps do exist for the site: Field notes for the site are incomplete (June, 1991 sampling event is not documented.) As well, the property owner has not carried out investigative work that would reliably establish soil conditions and depth to groundwater at his site. Nevertheless, I am asking that you consider closure for this site for the following reasons:

Richard Hiett
RWQCB
February 23, 1993
Page 2 of 2

1. The confirmatory sample analyses for samples taken in June of 1991, showed no detectable levels of contaminants.
2. The native soil in the tank pit appeared to contain a great deal of clay. While I can not say for certain that the clay layer beneath the tank was more than 2 1/2 feet thick, I feel that it was probably an effective barrier to the spread of oil and grease to deeper soil layers.
3. Depth to groundwater is likely to be 35 to 45 feet, based on data from monitoring wells at neighboring sites. It is reasonable to assume that a soil barrier of at least 20 feet exists between the contamination and groundwater.
4. The waste oil pit, which was backfilled in the summer of 1991, had been excavated to the extent feasible, considering that the west wall of the shop was within 1 1/2 feet of the edge of the pit. The owner fears damage to the structure will result from any further soil removal.

I believe that the soil removal done at the site thus far has removed the source of contamination and mitigated its potential threat to groundwater. Unless your review of this case results in conclusions different from my own, please send written concurrence at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Pamela J. Evans
Senior Hazardous Materials Specialist

c: Richard Faber, Helmut Motors
T. L. Bush, T. L. Bush, Inc.

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

December 6, 1990

Richard Faber
Helmut Motors
82 W. A St.
Hayward CA 94541

RE: Underground Storage Tank Removal and Soil Sampling Results

Dear Mr. Faber:

This letter is a follow up to our discussion of the sampling results for tank pit and stockpiled soil. Of concern were the Total Oil and Grease (TOG) levels in samples 7 and 9, and the xylene concentration found in sample 6.

I have discussed the sampling results and the characteristics of your site with Richard Hiatt of the Regional Water Quality Control Board. In order to work toward site closure, you must take the following steps, at a minimum:

1. Further overexcavate soil from the former waste oil tank pit. Remove a minimum depth of one foot of soil from the bottom of the pit. The excavation must extend laterally at least the width and length of the former tank.
2. Sample and analyze soil for total oil and grease at one to two feet below where the last analyzed sample was taken (sample #1 taken 11/8/90). I recommend that you have a second sample taken approximately one foot below the first. If the first sample is found to contain TOG above detectable limits, you may be required to analyze this second sample.

Another issue we have discussed is the xylene contaminated backfill soil that was returned to the fuel tank pit with my concurrence. Because xylene is volatile, the low level (.034 ppm) detected in sample 6 is likely to have evaporated by the time the excavated soil was returned to the pit. Thus it is unlikely to represent a threat to groundwater.

Additionally, before I can recommend closure of your site to the RWQCB, I will need complete sampling reports from T.L. Bush. Items that must be included in the report:

1. Sampling and analytical protocols and QA/QC results
2. Location and depth of each sample

Richard Faber
Helmut Motors
December 6, 1990
Page 2 of 2

Because contamination was found at your site, you must fill out and return the enclosed Soil Contamination Report. Please return this completed form by December 20, 1990.

Finally, I recommend that you have a soil boring done by a qualified engineer or geologist in order to establish depth to groundwater and subsurface soil conditions. Borings provide soil permeability data, which is particularly useful in evaluating whether closure should be granted for sites with shallow groundwater.

Please inform me prior to further sampling from the waste oil tank pit. You may contact me with any questions concerning your site at 271-4320.

Sincerely,



Pamela J. Evans
Hazardous Materials Specialist

Enclosure

c: Richard Hiett, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Tanya L. Bush, T. L. Bush



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

May 30, 1990

Helmut Faber
Helmut Motors, Inc.
82 A. St.
Hayward CA 94541

NOTICE OF LEGAL OBLIGATION

Dear Mr. Faber:

Our records indicate that underground storage tanks exist at your facility.

In accordance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Chapter 3, Subchapter 16 Underground Tank Regulations you must perform one of the following actions:

1. Submit a tank closure plan to this Department as required by Article 7, 2670, or
2. Apply for a permit as required by Article 10, 2710.

Please note that section 25299 of the California Health and Safety Code states that any operator or owner of an underground storage tank is liable for a civil penalty of not less than five hundred dollars or more than five thousand dollars per day for failure to obtain a permit, or failing to properly close an underground storage tank, as required by section 25298.

You may contact Hazardous Materials Specialist Pamela J. Evans with any questions concerning this matter at 271-4320.

Sincerely,

Edgar B. Howell, Chief
Hazardous Materials Division

EBH:PJE

c: Gil Jensen, Alameda County District Attorney's Office
Lester Feldman, Regional Water Quality Control Board