

ALAMEDA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE SERVICES



AGENCY
DAVID J. KEARS, Agency Director

ROUTED

June 22, 1998

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
1131 Harbor Bay Parkway, Suite 250
Alameda, CA 94502-6577
(510) 567-6700
(510) 337-9335 (FAX)

Jennifer Wright
Environmental Health and Safety Manager
US Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Service
800 Buchanan Street
Albany, California 94710

**Subject: Operating permit for one underground storage tank,
located at 800 Buchanan Street, Albany California 94710**

Dear Ms. Wright:

This letter is intended to guide the owner-operator, in the proper management of the underground storage tank (UST) and to describe actions necessary for compliance with the permit conditions.

The tank system at the subject facility is a 10,000 gallon double wall fiberglass UST. The UST is used to store diesel fuel for use in the standby boiler system. Tank leak detection is performed using a Leak Alert system, manufactured by Universal Sensors and Devices Inc. with associated probes and sensors. The suction piping that supplies the boilers is double wall fiberglass utilizing a sump on the tank to act as the containment for the piping. The suction piping is continuously monitored at the sump with a probe connected to the Leak Alert monitoring console.

Compliance with the following conditions is a requirement of the permit to operate:

1. Perform continuous leak detection using the sensors and monitoring system for leak detection.
2. Maintain written records of all alarm conditions caused by product releases and the resolution of the condition.
3. **Annually** perform operational tests on the electronic monitoring equipment using qualified technicians. **December** is the anniversary date for certification. Submit a copy of the certification report to this office within 30 days of the test. Maintain written records of all maintenance performed on the tank system.
4. Maintain a copy of the five year operating permit and operating conditions on-site.

5. Report unauthorized releases to this office within 24 hours of discovery. Provide written reports within 5 working days.
6. Complete employee training and document such training at least annually.
7. Report changes of facility operator or tank owner on Form A within 30 days of the change.
8. Any change in monitoring equipment must be pre-approved by this office prior to implementation.

This permit expires on August 6, 2002. This UST qualifies for certification to receive fuel deliveries on January 1, 1999. If you have any questions regarding the operation of this tank system please contact me at (510) 567-6781.

Sincerely,



Robert Weston
Sr. Hazardous Materials Specialist

enclosures

c: Tom Peacock, ACDEH



5710 3102

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

1131 Harbor Bay Parkway
Alameda, CA 94502-6577
(510) 567-6777

November 15, 1995

Noga Levit
USDA/ Western Regional Research Center
800 Buchanan St.
Albany CA 94710

RE: Underground Storage Tank Permit Requirement (Site ID# 3102)

NOTICE OF LEGAL OBLIGATION

Dear Ms. Levit:

Your facility operates a 10,000 gallon diesel tank at the above referenced address. The following information is needed to complete the application for your underground tank permit. Please forward the following to my office by **December 15, 1995**.

1. Written tank monitoring and spill response plan with plot plan (forms mailed to you October 6, 1995).
2. Results of precision tank tests and pipeline leak detection tests for 1994 and 1995. Your 1993 results are on file with this office.
3. Your financial responsibility certification form.

You may contact me at (510)567-6770 with any questions regarding the permit process.

Sincerely,

Pamela J. Evans
Senior Hazardous Materials Specialist

c: Kevin Tinsley, ACDEH

ALAMEDA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE SERVICES

AGENCY

DAVID J. KEARS, Agency Director



R02772

RAFAT A. SHAHID, Assistant Agency Director

August 2, 1994

Alameda County
Health Care Services Agency
Dept. Of Environmental Health
1131 Harbor Bay Pkwy 2nd Flr.
Alameda Ca 94502-6577

Mr. Lester Feldman
San Regional Water Quality Control Board
2101 Webster Street
Suite 500
Oakland, CA

RE: United States Department of Agriculture
800 Buchanan Street, Albany, CA

Dear Mr. Feldman:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Western Regional Research Center has requested site closure for the above site. In Decemeber 1990, five underground storage tanks were excavated and removed. Soil and/or groundwater contamination was detected under four of the five underground tanks. Up to 1,400 ppb of chloroform was detected in the soil, and 480 ppb of methylene chloride in the groundwater. In September 1992, three two-inch diameter ground water monitoring wells were installed on-site. The wells were monitored on a quarterly basis from September 1992 to September 1993 for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and Halogenated Volatile Organic Compounds (HVOC). Ground water samples from all wells, including the duplicate sample, were reported to be nondetectable for VOCs and HVOCs for all sampling events. The report titled "Summary of Findings for Soil and Ground Water Investigation" dated February 25, 1994 that was prepared by Environmental Science & Engineering summarizes the remediation and monitoring activities at the above site. Please review this report.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (510) 567-6700.

Sincerely,


Larry Seto
Sr. Hazardous Materials Specialist

cc: Gary Fleming, USDA
Sue Wickham, Environmental Science & Engineering, Inc.
Ed Howell, Chief, Hazardous Materials Division
File

ALAMEDA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE SERVICES

AGENCY
DAVID J. KEARS, Agency Director



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RAFAT A. SHAHID, Assistant Agency Director

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

June 21, 1994

Mr. Gary Fleming
United States Department of Agriculture
800 Buchanan Street
Albany, CA 94710

RE: 800 Buchanan Street, Albany, CA

Dear Mr. Fleming:

I have reviewed your Summary of Findings for Soil and Ground Water Investigation dated February 25, 1994 that was prepared by Environmental & Engineering, Inc. It is recommended that MW-1 and MW-2 be sampled one more time before approaching the Regional Board for site closure.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (510) 271-4320.

Sincerely,



Larry Seto
Sr. Hazardous Materials Specialist

cc: Ed Howell, Chief, Hazardous Materials
Sue Wickham, Environmental Science & Engineering, Inc.

ALAMEDA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE SERVICES

AGENCY
DAVID J. KEARS, Agency Director



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RAFAT A. SHAHID, Assistant Agency Director

Certified Mailer # P 386 338 183

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

December 13, 1993

Mr. Scott Pianalto
Safety Health and Environment Specialist
USDA Research Facility
800 Buchanan Street
Albany, CA 94710

RE: 800 Buchanan Street, Albany, CA

Dear Mr. Pianalto:

On November 10, 1993, Don Atkinson-Adams and I performed an underground tank inspection at the above site. A five (5) year operating permit is required for your underground tank (UGT). Before our office can issue your facility a 5-year (UGT) operating permit, we must have the following information:

1. Your facility's State Board of Equalization Number (Form A)
2. Written underground tank monitoring plan
3. Written spill response plan
4. Plot plan (Identifying the location of the tank)

Please submit the above information to my office within 30 days of the receipt of this letter.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 271-4320.

Sincerely,


Larry Seto
Sr. Hazardous Materials Specialist

cc: Don Atkinson-Adams
Files

ALAMEDA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE SERVICES

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DAVID J. KEARS, Agency Director



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RAFAT A. SHAHID, Assistant Agency Director

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

CERTIFIED MAILER # P 422 218 082

November 12, 1993

Scott Pianalto, Safety Health and
Environment Specialist
USDA Research Facility
800 Buchanan Street
Albany, CA 94710

Site ID#-3102

---NOTICE OF LEGAL OBLIGATION---

Subject: Problems observed during the November 10, 1993
inspection of the USDA Research Facility, 800 Buchanan
Street, Albany, CA.

Dear Mr. Pianalto:

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation on Wednesday,
November 10, 1993. We look forward to working together with you
to resolve the various problems which we saw during our
inspection of the facility and during our review of the records.

The following problems were noted during our tour of the
facility:

1- **Administration Building:**

Basement- We recommend that an inventory be taken in
the chemical storeroom. Incompatible chemicals must be
stored separately. The present system of storage of
chemicals in alphabetical order may pose a severe
health and safety hazard if there is a spill. Also
there was a question about the stability of the storage
shelving in the event of an earthquake.

Western Regional Research Center wing (4 floors)- Tanks
of liquid nitrogen did not appear to be adequately
restrained from tipping over. (Note: This may be a
common problem throughout the facility.)

2- **Hazardous Materials Storage Shed:**

Incompatible chemicals were being stored side by side
in each of the two rooms of this shed.

November 12, 1993

3- **Extraction Shed:**

There were a number of open containers of unidentified chemicals. Some of the containers were unsecured glass flasks setting on the work benches. There was also an open, unidentified 55 gallon drum outside of the building. A quantity of flammable liquids were stored inside of the building. Under the refluxing bench is a floor drain. Identify where the drain goes (sanitary sewer, storm drain, or other). Discontinue all discharge to this drain. Notify this office for approval before reusing this drain.

4- **Hazardous Materials Storage Shed (used by contractor for lab packing waste):**

We strongly recommend a berm around this shed to contain spills. A large quantity of flammable material is also stored in this shed (wooden shelves, desk, empty cardboard boxes.) What type of ventilation is in this room? Is it adequate?

5- **Outside Storage area for 55 gallon drums:**

There were open 30 gallon garbage cans with unknown products floating on top. The rain was getting into the uncovered containers. The pavement around the barrels has chemical spills with absorbent scattered around to try and contain it. The rain was moving the contamination off site. There was a partial pallet of lead acid batteries exposed to the rain. Containers were not properly labeled (no identification of contents nor of accumulation start date.)

6- **Chemical Storage Lockers (hazardous waste):**

The berm around these lockers has cracks in it. At the ends of the containment area there are concrete sumps. These sumps were filling with rain water. The problem is the lack of weather protection of the bermed area. The volume of a chemical spill would be increased because of rain water. Please confirm that the sumps are sealed to prevent chemicals from leaking into the ground. There were some 55 gallon drums outside of the lockers. One drum was open and appeared to have product in it. Beside the drum there was a 5 gallon bucket partially filled with what appeared to be oil. The bucket was uncovered and sitting on dirt.

USDA Research Facility
800 Buchanan Street
Albany, CA 94710

November 12, 1993

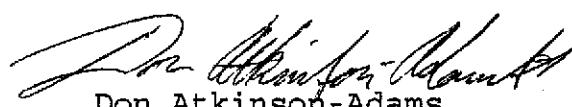
Summary: Please specify how each item of concern in each section above will be addressed. In addition several common problems were observed around the entire facility and should be addressed. These include:

- 1- Chemical containers were unlabeled.
- 2- Containers were unsecured.
- 3- Containers were not closed.
- 4- incompatible chemicals were being stored together.

Please send us a plan of corrections within 30 days to address the concerns in this letter. Contact us at 271-4320 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Larry Seto
Sr. Hazardous Materials Specialist


Don Atkinson-Adams
Senior REHS #5485

ALAMEDA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE SERVICES

AGENCY
DAVID J. KEARS, Agency Director



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RAFAT A. SHAHID, Assistant Agency Director

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

CERTIFIED MAILER # P 422 218 083

November 12, 1993

Scott Pianalto, Safety Health and
Environment Specialist
USDA Research Facility
800 Buchanan Street
Albany, CA 94710

Site ID#-3102

---NOTICE OF LEGAL OBLIGATION---

Subject: Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP) for the USDA
Research Facility, 800 Buchanan Street, Albany, CA.

Dear Mr. Pianalto:

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation on Wednesday, November 10, 1993. This letter is to confirm and clarify our conversation about the HMBP requirements for the USDA facility. As we discussed, the plan for the facility must be done in a timely manner. Because the facility is so large and complex we will accept submission of the plan in parts. Please observe the following due dates.

<u>Line Numbers</u> (see Part II of the HMBP form)	<u>Due Date</u>
1 to 21a	12/10/93
56 to 81	1/10/94
82a to 85	12/10/93
25 to 45	1/10/94
46 to 55 (first draft)	1/10/93
Facility maps:	
Site Layout (see instructions for required details)	12/10/93
Facility (Building maps)	
Do a plan for each floor of each building. Indicate as a minimum the location of flammables, toxics, corrosives, reactives, and compressed gases in each room which contains these items. (On the first draft of the floor plans a detailed identification of the chemicals in the rooms is not required.)	
First Draft	12/10/93

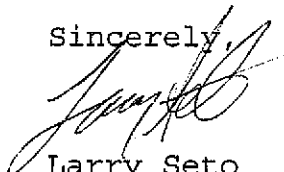
USDA Research Facility
800 Buchanan Street
Albany, CA 94710

(HMBP)

November 12, 1993

Please sign and date all submissions (certify that the information is correct to the best of your knowledge.)
Contact us at 271-4320 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Larry Seto
Sr. Hazardous Materials Specialist



Don Atkinson-Adams
Senior REHS #5485

daa

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ALAMEDA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE SERVICES

AGENCY

DAVID J. KEARS, Agency Director



R02772

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

May 7, 1991

Mr. Alvin Humphrey, Area Safety & Health Manager
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
800 Buchanan St.
Albany, CA 94710-1105

RE: 800 Buchanan St., Albany, CA

Dear Mr. Humphrey:

As per our meeting on March 28, 1991, an environmental consultant should be contacted to develop an investigation and remediation plan for the above site.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 271-4320.

Sincerely,


Larry Seto
Senior Hazardous Materials Specialist

LS:lp

cc: Gary Fleming, USDA
Gil Jensen, Alco. District Attorney, Consumer and
Environmental Protection Agency
RWQCB
Rafat Shahid, Assistant Agency Director, Environmental Health
files



R02772

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

April 17, 1990

David S. Jackson, Facilities Engineer
USDA, ARS, WRRRC
800 Buchanan St.
Albany, CA 94710

SECOND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Jackson:

Our records indicate that there are underground tank(s) at your site at the above facility.

On October 31, 1989 you were sent a Notice of Legal Obligation. You replied in a letter dated November 6, 1989 that you were planning to closed and operate underground storage tanks. You were sent the necessary forms. To date you have not submitted any of the forms back to this office as required. 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.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact this office at 271-4320.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas F. Peacock".

Thomas F. Peacock, Senior HMS
Hazardous Materials Division

TFP:tfp

cc: Gil Jensen, Alameda County District Attorney, Consumer and
Environmental Protection Agency
Lester Feldman, RWQCB