

ERM-West, Inc.  
 1777 Botelho Drive  
 Suite 260  
 Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
 (510) 946-0455  
 (510) 946-9968 (Fax)

January 19, 1998

Ms. Eva Chu  
 Alameda County Health Care Services Agency  
 Department of Environmental Health  
 Division of Hazardous Materials  
 1131 Harbor Bay Parkway  
 Alameda, California 94502



SUBJECT: Closure of "Tank 15" Site  
 West Oakland Railyard  
 Union Pacific Railroad  
 Oakland, California

STID 5354  
Foot of Pine

Dear Ms. Chu:

On behalf of Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR), ERM-West, Inc., (ERM) is transmitting the enclosed information regarding the removal of the underground storage tank (UST) from the Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SPTCo) facility in West Oakland, California, referred to in our telephone conversation of December 19, 1997. This UST was removed by Canonie Environmental Services Corp. (Canonie) in January 1988 as part of a program to remove numerous USTs from SPTCo facilities in West Oakland. According to the Canonie report entitled *Final Site Report, Underground Storage Tank Removal, Southern Pacific Transportation Company, Oakland, California* (dated June 28, 1988), the UST was designated as "Tank 15", and described as being located near the SPTCo diesel shop. The excavation permit included in the report noted the location of the UST as at the "foot of Pine Street". The information enclosed in this letter are excerpts from the 1988 Canonie report.

According to the Canonie report, concentrations of total volatile petroleum hydrocarbons (TVPH) and benzene detected in the soil and ground water samples collected following the removal of Tank 15 were as follows:

<u>Sample No.</u>	<u>Sample Media</u>	<u>TVPH</u>	<u>Benzene</u>
SS-15E	Soil	540.0 ppm	< 20 ppm
SS-15W	Soil	230.0 ppm	< 2.0 ppm
WS-15	Water	47,000 ppb	200 ppb

high detection limit

98 JAN 22 AM 10:10  
 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The concentrations listed above would commonly result in a site investigation; however, based on the following conditions at the Tank 15 site, further investigation is not warranted:

- The site is located within an active railyard which is zoned for industrial use. It is anticipated that the area will remain in use as a railyard into the foreseeable future.
- The site is over 1,200 feet downgradient from residential areas and is not located upgradient of any residential area;
- It is likely that the shallow aquifer below the site contains high concentrations of total dissolved solids (TDS), and is not suitable as a source of drinking water. Concentrations of TDS in ground water samples collected from nearby sites were commonly in excess of 3000 mg/l<sup>1</sup>;
- The grab water sample collected at the time of UST removal may not have been representative of site ground water; and
- The data referenced above represents sampling which occurred nearly ten years ago.

ERM recommends that the Tank 15 site be closed at this time, and reopened only if land use of the area changes in the future.

In regards to costs associated with review of this site by your office, please forward all invoices directly to the UPRR representative for payment:

**Mr. Craig Denny  
Union Pacific Railroad Company  
1416 Dodge Street, Room 930  
Omaha, Nebraska 68179**

---

<sup>1</sup> 1997. *Remedial Investigation and Baseline Risk Assessment Report, I-880 Realignment Corridor, West Oakland and Desert Rail Yards, Oakland, California*. Geomatrix Consultants. Project no. 2686.01

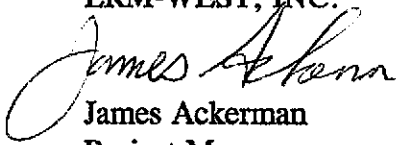
Ms. Eva Chu  
January 19, 1998

Page3

Please call me at (510) 946-0455 if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

ERM-WEST, INC.



James Ackerman  
Project Manager

JBA/jba/8187.01

Enclosure

cc: Craig Denny, Union Pacific Railroad (with enclosure)  
Doug Hodson, ERM-West, Inc. (with enclosure)