



*File Sparto*

**City of Albuquerque**  
P.O. BOX 1283 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87103  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

*Bernhard  
FILE  
ST Red/95*

November 13, 1995

Mr. Mark Weidler  
Secretary  
New Mexico Environment Department  
1190 St. Francis Drive  
P. O. Box 968  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0968

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages ▶
To <i>Ron Kern</i>	From <i>Rob Pine</i>	
Co.	Co.	
Dept.	Phone #	
Fax # <i>1544</i>	Fax #	

Subject: Sparto Technology's Ground Water Contamination at their Coors Road Facility

Dear Secretary Weidler:

I understand from your staff that you are meeting tomorrow with representatives of Sparto Corporation who wish to discuss with you the ground water contamination emanating from their Coors Road facility in Albuquerque. Sparto Corporation has clearly revealed their intent to resist clean-up of the contamination. Sparto's November 6, 1995 reply to a letter from the Environmental Protection Agency dated October 3, 1995 misconstrues the hydrologic, water supply, and policy facts that are relevant to protection and clean-up of the ground water that Sparto has contaminated. I will prepare a point-by-point response to their letter in the near future.

Because this detailed response is not yet available, I wanted you to know of the City of Albuquerque's concern regarding the Sparto ground water contamination before your meeting. The incompletely characterized but actively spreading plume of chlorinated solvents emanating from the Sparto Corporation Coors Road Facility is contaminating ground water that is needed for metropolitan area drinking water supply. It is located in an area designated by the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Ground Water Protection Policy and Action Plan as crucial for ground water quality protection. The City's current water supply master plan designates this area for a future well field. It is one of the few areas in metropolitan Albuquerque where the State Engineer's Rio Grande Task Force recommendations would allow new wells to be drilled. The contamination is in the path of recharge water, which flows from the Rio Grande to nearby well fields located to the west. Effective remediation grows more difficult and expensive with every passing day as the contamination continues to spread. Sparto's November 6 letter denies that the above are true or states that these factors are irrelevant. I disagree.

I appreciate the New Mexico Environment Department's concern regarding clean-up of this contamination. Your assistance is requested to assure that an adequate clean-up program begins as soon as possible at this site.

Sincerely yours,

Norman Gaume, P. E.  
Manager, Water Resources Program