

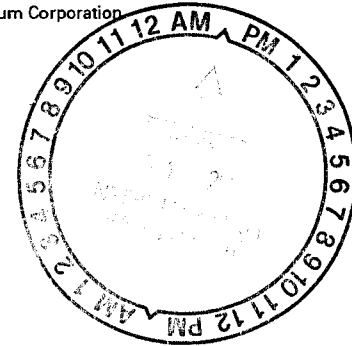


ENTERED

Western Refining Southwest LLC

A subsidiary of Marathon Petroleum Corporation

I-40 Exit 39
Jamestown, NM 87347



June 11, 2021

Mr. Kevin Pierard, Chief
New Mexico Environmental Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Bldg. 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303

**RE: Response to Approval with Modifications
 Response to Disapproval Investigation Work Plan Solid Waste Management Unit
 (SWMU) No. 1 Aeration Basin and SWMU No. 14 Old API Separator
 Marathon Petroleum Company LP, Gallup Refinery
 (dba Western Refining Southwest LLC)
 EPA ID# NMD000333211
 HWB-WRG-14-005**

Dear Mr. Pierard:

Attached please find the response to comments contained in the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Approval with Modifications letter dated March 15, 2021. A timeline of the reports for the investigation at the Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) No. 1 and SWMU No. 14 is provided below.

- Investigation Report, submitted February 11, 2013
- Disapproval, Investigation Report, received June 6, 2014
- Investigation Report – Revised, submitted July 31, 2014
- Disapproval, Revised Investigation Report, received May 11, 2015
- Response to Rejection, submitted April 21, 2016
- Disapproval, Investigation Work Plan, received January 24, 2017
- Response to Disapproval, Revised Investigation Report, submitted August 20, 2018
- Response to Disapproval, submitted November 28, 2018
- Approval with Modifications, received March 15, 2021

If you have any questions or comments regarding the information contained herein, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. John Moore at 505-879-7643.



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Certification

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction of supervision according to a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Sincerely,
Western Refining Southwest LLC, Gallup Refinery

Robert S. Hanks

Robert S. Hanks
Refinery General Manager

Enclosure

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
T. McDill, NMOCD
K. Luka, Marathon Petroleum Company
H. Jones, Trihydro Corporation

M. Suzuki, NMED HWB
G. McCartney, Marathon Petroleum Company
J. Moore, Marathon Gallup Refinery

TABLE

New Mexico Environment Department to Marathon Petroleum Company Comment Letter “Approval with Modifications, Response to Disapproval Investigation Work Plan, SWMU No. 1 and No. 14” (March 15, 2021)

New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Comment	Marathon Petroleum Company (MPC) Response
<p>Comment 1:</p> <p>The response to NMED’s <i>Disapproval</i> Comment 1, item a states, “[t]he proposed boring/temporary well north of SWMU 1-6 and 1-28 will be completed to define the lateral extent of impacts observed in the groundwater sample collected at SWMU 1-6.” According to Figure 6, <i>Proposed Sample Location</i>, the referenced soil boring is proposed to be installed at the northern perimeter of Pond EP-1. NMED’s <i>Approval with Modifications Solid Waste Management Unit 1 Revised Investigation Report</i>, dated January 26, 2021, approved a removal of the Aeration Lagoons and Evaporation Pond 1 altogether and required the Permittee to submit a work plan that describes all activities related to the removal no later than April 30, 2021. The proposed boring is no longer relevant because of the upcoming excavation of the Aeration Lagoons and Evaporation Pond 1.</p> <p>Whether or not the proposed boring shown on Figure 6 will be located inside the excavation, the removal likely eliminates the source of the contamination from SWMU 1. Accordingly, the proposed soil boring is not necessary.</p>	<p>Response 1:</p> <p>Marathon Petroleum Corporation (MPC) acknowledges that the proposed boring in the response to NMED’s <i>Disapproval</i> will no longer be necessary with the removal of the Aeration Lagoons and Evaporation Pond 1.</p> <p>MPC requested an extension on the Aeration Lagoons and Evaporation Pond 1 work plan pending investigation results of the Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 1 test pit and yield test evaluation. The work plan will be submitted no later than September 1, 2021.</p>

New Mexico Environment Department to Marathon Petroleum Company Comment Letter “Approval with Modifications, Response to Disapproval Investigation Work Plan, SWMU No. 1 and No. 14” (March 15, 2021)

Comment 2:	Response 2:
<p>The response to NMED’s <i>Disapproval</i> Comment 1, item b states, “[a] new proposed soil boring/temporary well is now located up-gradient, to the southeast of the Old API Separator (see Figure 7 and new Figure 8). This is a very active operations area around the flare, so access is limited, but we believe we can locate a well on the east side of the overhead pipe rack.” The current refinery shutdown may have improved accessibility in the vicinity of the Old API Separator. Explain whether the structures associated with the Old API Separator and flare stack can be removed under the current refinery shutdown. If so, propose to remove them before the investigation of SWMU 14 takes place.</p> <p>Regardless, the investigations associated with the Old API Separator must be deferred until the removal of the Aeration Lagoons and Evaporation Pond 1 is completed. The Old API Separator is located close to the Aeration Lagoons and the removal potentially affects the current scope of investigation. In a response letter, propose to submit an investigation work plan that solely focuses on the investigation of SWMU 14 after the removal of the Aeration Lagoons and Evaporation Pond 1 is completed.</p> <p>In addition, the Permittee’s <i>Flare KOD Pump Sodium Hydroxide Release Soil Sampling Investigation Work Plan</i>, dated November 30, 2020, proposes soil sampling in the vicinity of the Old API Separator. Since the area of the investigations overlap one another, these investigations may concurrently be conducted and the results may be combined, as appropriate. However, the investigation reports must be submitted separately for tracking purposes. As a reminder, the NMED’s <i>Approval with Modifications Flare KOD Pump Sodium Hydroxide Release Investigation Work Plan</i>, dated December 21, 2020, requires a submittal of a response letter no later than April 30, 2021. The investigations proposed in the <i>Flare KOD Pump Sodium Hydroxide Release Soil Sampling Investigation Work Plan</i> may also be deferred until the removal of the Aeration Lagoons and Evaporation Pond 1 is completed, as appropriate.</p>	<p>The refinery is currently idled and has begun investigations in areas that would not normally be accessible while the refinery is in operation. Removal of refinery process equipment has not been addressed as the plant is only indefinitely idled and not permanently shut down.</p> <p>The removal of the Aeration Lagoons and Evaporation Pond 1 is tentatively scheduled to be completed in the first quarters of 2022 and 2023. Rather than deferring the Flare KOD investigation until later in 2023, MPC believes it would be prudent to continue advancing assessment of this area to determine the extent of impacts during the current period of idled refinery operations. In addition, the Flare KOD area is located approximately 80 feet south and upgradient of the Aeration Lagoons. The impacts associated with the Flare KOD are high pH soils which is not a constituent of concern for SWMU 1.</p> <p>The Flare KOD Investigation response letter was submitted April 27, 2021. It is anticipated that the field work will take place during the third quarter of 2021. MPC does not plan to defer the work until the removal of the Aeration Lagoons and Evaporation Pond 1.</p>

New Mexico Environment Department to Marathon Petroleum Company Comment Letter “Approval with Modifications, Response to Disapproval Investigation Work Plan, SWMU No. 1 and No. 14” (March 15, 2021)

<p>Comment 3:</p> <p>The response to NMED’s <i>Disapproval</i> Comment 1, item c states, “[d]ue to aboveground tanks and overhead pipe racks, it is not possible to get access with a drilling rig any closer than was achieved during the previous field effort. Based on the limited area of concern, the fact that no concentrations exceed the non-residential soil screening levels and the physical access limitations, we recommend no further assessment specifically for 1,2-dibromoethane.” The current refinery shutdown may have improved accessibility in the vicinity of the Old API Separator. The extent of contamination associated with 1,2-dibromoethane must be further investigation and the provision must be included in the work plan required by Comment 2 above.</p>	<p>Response 3:</p> <p>In the area of the Old API Separator, aboveground tanks and overhead pipe racks are still in place. The current idling period has not improved accessibility in the vicinity of the Old API Separator. MPC understands that when the separate work plan is submitted to NMED focusing on SWMU 14, the extent of contamination associated with 1,2-dibromoethane will be included.</p>
<p>Comment 4:</p> <p>The response to NMED’s <i>Disapproval</i> Comment 1, item c states, “[s]ome of this [north side of the Old API Separator] area is routinely stands surface water [sic], but an effort will be made to install borings in such a manner as to prevent cross-contamination.” The issue associated with surface water may be resolved after the Aeration Lagoons are removed. The investigations associated with the Old API Separator must be deferred until the removal of the Aeration Lagoons and Evaporation Pond 1 is completed (see Comment 2 above).</p>	<p>Response 4:</p> <p>The investigation workplan details that the method of borings will utilize hand auguring to a relatively shallow depth to reduce the potential for cross contamination of SWMU 1. See MPC response for Comment 2 regarding deferral of the investigation.</p>
<p>Comment 5:</p> <p>The response to NMED’s <i>Disapproval</i> Comment 3 states, “[w]e propose one boring on the south, two along the west, one to the north and two along the east side of the Aeration Basin to the north of the New API Separator, with final locations to be determined based on rig access.” The confirmatory soil sampling from the excavation floor and sidewall may substitute for the proposed investigation associated with SWMU 1. Accordingly, the investigation associated with SWMU 1 may no longer be necessary (see Comment 1 above).</p>	<p>Response 5:</p> <p>MPC acknowledges that the proposed boring in the response to NMED’s <i>Disapproval</i> will no longer be necessary with the removal of the Aeration Lagoons and Evaporation Pond 1.</p>