



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

JAMES C. KENNEY
CABINET SECRETARY

Certified Mail - Return Receipt Requested

August 22, 2022

John Moore
Environmental Superintendent
Western Refining, Southwest LLC, Gallup Refinery
92 Giant Crossing Road
Gallup, New Mexico 87301

**RE: APPROVAL WITH MODIFICATIONS
2021 ANNUAL MONITORED NATURAL ATTENUATION REPORT
WESTERN REFINING SOUTHWEST LLC, GALLUP REFINERY
MCKINLEY COUNTY, GALLUP, NEW MEXICO
EPA ID # NMD000333211
HWB-WRG-22-005**

Dear Mr. Moore:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has completed its review of the Marathon Petroleum Company dba Western Refining Southwest LLC, Gallup Refinery (Permittee) *2021 Annual Monitored Natural Attenuation Report (Report)*, dated March 31, 2022 and received on March 30, 2022.

Comment 12 of the NMED's February 1, 2018 *Disapproval Interim Measures Report Hydrocarbon Seep Area* specifically required the Permittee to investigate the occurrence of anaerobic dechlorination, accumulation of vinyl chloride, and the occurrence of hydrocarbon and MTBE degradation at the Hydrocarbon Seep Area. The Permittee has fulfilled its obligation and submitted the Report that summarizes the results of the investigation. Therefore, NMED hereby issues this Approval with Modifications.

NMED believes that monitored natural attenuation (MNA) is not appropriate for sites where separate phase hydrocarbon (SPH) is present and as a result, these sites need to be addressed by active remediation. Since SPH is currently present at the Hydrocarbon Seep Area, the Permittee must not consider MNA as a remedial approach. This MNA monitoring program intends to evaluate whether existing site conditions are conducive to degradation of specific dissolved phase constituents (e.g., chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOCs) and methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE)). For example, vinyl chloride is a daughter product of CVOCs detected at the Hydrocarbon Seep Area and is known to be the most toxic among the CVOCs detected at

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Hazardous Waste Bureau - 2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313
Telephone (505) 476-6000 - www.env.nm.gov

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the site. Since the groundwater conditions are predominantly anaerobic due to previous hydrocarbon releases, vinyl chloride may accumulate at the site unless specific measures to remove VOCs are implemented.

Some analytes (e.g., ethene, tertiary butyl alcohol) critical to evaluate the occurrence of MTBE and CVOCs degradation were not included in the 2021 investigation; therefore, it is still inappropriate to conclude that accumulation of such compounds is occurring at the site. The Permittee recommends that these analytes be included in the 2022 investigation and the continuation of the MNA monitoring program. NMED agrees with these recommendations. The 2022 MNA report that summarizes the results of the evaluation must be submitted to NMED no later than **March 31, 2023**.

This approval is based on the information presented in the document as it relates to the objectives of the work identified by NMED at the time of review. Approval of this document does not constitute agreement with all information or every statement presented in the document.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Michiya Suzuki of my staff at 505-690-6930.

Sincerely,

Rick Shean

Digitally signed by
Rick Shean
Date: 2022.08.22
14:08:33 -06'00'

Rick Shean
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
L. Tsinnajinnie, NMED HWB
M. Suzuki, NMED HWB
H. Jones, Trihydro
L. Barr, EMNRD OCD
L. King, EPA Region 6 (6LCRRC)

File: Reading File and WRG 2022 file