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Certified Mail - Return Receipt Requested

July 18, 2023



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

**RE: RESPONSE TO APPROVAL WITH MODIFICATIONS
NORTH DRAINAGE DITCH AREA INVESTIGATION REPORT
WESTERN REFINING SOUTHWEST LLC, GALLUP REFINERY
MCKINLEY COUNTY, GALLUP, NEW MEXICO
EPA ID# NMD000333211
HWB-WRG-21-025**

Dear Mr. Moore,

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has completed its review of Marathon Petroleum Company dba Western Refining Southwest LLC, Gallup Refinery (the Permittee) the *Response to Approval with Modifications North Drainage Ditch Area Investigation Report* (Response), dated August 16, 2022. The Permittee must address the following comments.

Comment 1

In the response to NMED's Approval with Modifications Comment 1, the Permittee states, "[a]nalytical results were not compared to soil-leachate (dilution-attenuation factor [DAF]) SSLs. In the investigation area, the presence of LNAPL and associated smear zone effects are the primary sources of benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, and total xylenes (BTEX) and TPH to groundwater. These sources are expected to persist longer than any vadose zone sources and, as such, a comparison to DAF SSLs is not applicable." Although NMED agrees that DAF SSLs of BTEX and TPH are not applicable to the investigation area, an omission of the discussion regarding DAF SSLs of metals must still be included. The metals concentrations must be compared to respective DAF SSLs to evaluate the risk of metals leaching into the aquifer. According to Table 4-3 (Soil Sample Metals Results), the concentrations of some metals in the soil samples collected from the investigation area exceed respective DAF SSLs. It appears that such risks may be present in the investigation area. Evaluate and discuss metals analytical

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results relative to DAF SSLs and provide replacement pages for applicable sections of the revised Report.

Comment 2

In the response to NMED's Approval with Modifications Comment 4b, the Permittee states, "[m]onitoring well NDD-MW-1 has been gauged two additional times since the first event in September 2021. Recent depth to water (DTW) measurements were 31.59 ft bgs and 31.64 ft bgs (fourth quarter 2021 and first quarter 2022, respectively). Based on these fluid level measurements and measuring point elevation (6,945.95 ft), NDD-MW-1 is located in the Chinle/Alluvial aquifer. It is Western's belief that the initial DTW measurement was an error and will not be used in future reporting for the well." NMED agrees that the subsequent depth to water (DTW) readings in well NDD-MW-1 are comparable to those of other monitoring wells screened to the Chinle/Alluvial aquifer in the vicinity. However, according to Table 3-2 (Well Construction Data), DTW in well NDD-MW-1 was recorded as 35 feet but the Permittee does not provide any information about when this DTW was recorded. This appears to be a typographical error since the recorded DTW reading (i.e., 35 feet) in Table 3-2 is not consistent with those measured during the fourth quarter 2021 and first quarter 2022 or initial DTW measurement of 3.41 feet bgs. Provide clarification for the discrepancy in the response letter, and provide a replacement table with the corrected information in the Report, as applicable.

Comment 3

In the response to NMED's Approval with Modifications Comment 6, the Permittee states, "[a] second phase investigation work plan will be prepared and submitted to NMED for review by December 31, 2022." NMED acknowledges that the *North Drainage Ditch Area Investigation Work Plan Phase II*, dated November 28, 2022 was submitted to NMED. NMED will provide correspondence for the submittal in a separate letter. No response is required.

The Permittee must address all comments above and submit a response letter, replacement pages, and an electronic version of the complete RLSO of the Report no later than **November 10, 2023**.

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

Sincerely,

Ricardo Maestas Digitally signed by Ricardo Maestas
Date: 2023.07.17 16:30:09 -06'00'

Ricardo Maestas
Acting Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

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

File: Reading File and WRG 2023 file