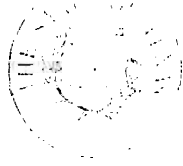


Kathleen Hartnett White, *Chairman*
R. B. "Ralph" Marquez, *Commissioner*
Larry R. Soward, *Commissioner*
Glenn Shankle, *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

October 12, 2006

Mr. Johnny Guelker (PXO-ESEP)
Lead for Site Support
Department of Energy
Albuquerque Field Office
P.O. Box 30030
Amarillo, TX 79120

Mr. Dennis Huddleston, Manager
Department of Energy
Albuquerque Field Office
P.O. Box 30030
Amarillo, TX 79120

Re: **Approval** - Final Update - "Site-Wide Ecological Risk Assessment", dated February 2005
U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Pantex Plant
TCEQ Solid Waste Registration No. 30459
TCEQ Hazardous Waste Permit No. HW-50284
EPA ID No. TX4890110527

Dear Messrs. Guelker and Huddleston:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has reviewed the final update to the February 2005 "Site-Wide Ecological Risk Assessment" (SWERA) report, submitted under a cover letter dated July 18, 2006. The SWERA report presents the results of the site-wide ecological risk assessment conducted at the DOE Pantex Plant to evaluate potential impacts to ecological receptors, focusing on Playas 1, 2, 3, and 4 and Pantex Lake, and associated ditches. The final update to the SWERA report reflects the status of all solid waste management unit-specific ecological risk assessments at Pantex, contains the updated Tier 1 Exclusion Criteria checklists, and addresses previous TCEQ and Environmental Protection Agency comments on the February 2005 SWERA. Based on our review, the final update to the February 2005 SWERA report adequately addresses TCEQ's comments. The TCEQ concurs that ecological risks are not anticipated and no further evaluation from an ecological perspective is required at this time. As required by Section X.O. of Compliance Plan No. 50284, the SWERA must be evaluated and/or calibrated on a 5 year recurring

Dear Messrs. Guelker and Huddleston
SWR No. 30459
October 12, 2006
Page 2

review basis using updated information and data to determine if the assumptions, exposure scenarios, etc. utilized in the ecological risk assessment are correct.

Please be aware that it is the continuing obligation of persons associated with a site to ensure that municipal hazardous waste and industrial solid waste are managed in a manner which does not cause the discharge or imminent threat of discharge of waste into or adjacent to waters in the state, a nuisance, or the endangerment of the public health and welfare as required by 30 TAC §335.4.

Questions concerning this letter should be directed to me at (512) 239-6875. When responding by mail, please submit an original and one copy of all correspondence to the TCEQ Environmental Cleanup Section I at the letterhead address using mail code number MC-127. An additional copy should be submitted to the TCEQ Region 1 Office in Amarillo. The TCEQ Solid Waste Registration number should be referenced in all submittals.

Sincerely,



Kera L. Bell, Project Manager
Environmental Cleanup Section I, Team 2
Remediation Division
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

KB/al

cc: Mr. Jim McWilliams, Project Manager, TCEQ Region 1 Office - Amarillo
Ms. Camille Hueni, Superfund Division, Texas Section (6SF-AP), USEPA Region VI