



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX  
215 Fremont Street  
San Francisco, Ca. 94105

*Bernie,  
Call me if  
you have questions.  
Happy New Year  
and keep pushing DOT!  
Jenny*

To: Task Force Members

Due to the number of interested parties at the Atlas and Coalinga Superfund sites, I have decided to communicate with you through a status report. This report will include issues such as:

- 1) A brief review of the previous month's RI/FS activities
- 2) Enforcement updates
- 3) ~~Schedule changes and delays~~
- 4) Issues/policy changes
- 5) Community relations status
- 6) Copies of documents which you must review (only for the primarily contact for each interested party or for mandatory contacts per legal agreements with responsible parties; see list, Attachment #1)

Hopefully, this summary will keep you informed of EPA actions on a regular basis. I have tried to include as much detailed information as possible in order to increase our communication. Your timely review of documents is essential in order for us to meet schedules. I appreciate, in advance, the time it will take for your reviews. Of course, you may participate in reviews voluntarily as you have time and as you choose.

Attached is the October/November report. Should you have questions or comments on how to improve the summary, please call me at (415)974-8161 or FTS 454-8161.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Decker  
Remedial Project Manager  
Atlas and Coalinga Superfund Sites  
Federal Response Section

- Attachments:
1. Primary contacts list/complete cc list
  2. October/November Atlas and Coalinga Update
  3. For primary contacts only: Stream Water Sampling Report
  4. EPA and Southern Pacific Land Company (SPLC) schedules for the NPL sites and regional study
  5. Community relations fact sheet (December, 1987)

ALL PRIMARY CONTACTS

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Atlas/Coalinga Update

## I. FIELD WORK

NPL Sites

- Soil Sampling: The soil sampling effort at the mine sites, in the White Creek and Los Gatos Creek streambeds, and in the Arroyo Pasajero flood basin was concluded by EPA in October, 1987. Soil samples are scheduled to be analyzed and reviewed for QA/QC purposes by late-December.
- Air Sampling: The expanded air sampling event covering the Pleasant Valley (in cities such as Coalinga, Huron, Lemoore, and Avenal) was conducted in October, 1987. Your organizations all have copies of the plan. Results are due back to EPA from the lab by late-December.
- Final Water Data Report: The EPA and Southern Pacific Land Company (SPLC) contractors have submitted their draft "Stream Water Sampling Reports." These reports will become chapters of the Remedial Investigation document. I have attached copies of the EPA report for primary contacts only to give you an idea of what the RI chapters will be like. You may review this report now or submit comments when the draft RI is sent to you in 1988. (See Attachment 3)

City of Coalinga SPTC Removal

Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SPTC) was issued a CERCLA §104 Removal Order by EPA on August 21, 1987 for asbestos soil contamination discovered by EPA in the City of Coalinga. Since that date, SPTC has worked closely with EPA to determine the extent of the problem. Preliminary soil results (100% analysis by PLM and 10% TEM) show greater than 50% asbestos by weight in selected samples over several acres of property in Coalinga. A complete sampling report will be available in January, 1988.

## 2. ENFORCEMENT ISSUES:

EPA/SPLC Consent Agreement: EPA is pleased to announce that EPA and Southern Pacific Land Company (SPLC) have signed a consent agreement for the Coalinga mill site work. SPLC will complete the Johns-Manville Coalinga Mill site RI/FS with EPA conducting oversight. To date, SPLC has conducted water and soil sampling, drilled soil borings, and is in the process of developing remedial alternatives for the mill site.

PRP Search: EPA conducted interviews on November 30 to December 2 with Coalinga community members that worked at the two NPL mine sites from 1960 through the 1970's. The information gained is presently being reviewed for future action.

### 3. SCHEDULES

Mine Schedules: The tentative schedules for EPA activities at the Atlas site and regional investigation are attached. Schedules for the SPLC investigation (with EPA oversight) at the Coalinga site are also attached. These schedules will be met assuming unforeseen difficulties do not occur (Attachment 4).

City of Coalinga Removal Schedules: SPTC is planning to submit its sampling effort report to EPA during the first week in January, 1988. At that time, removal plan schedules will be discussed.

### 4. POLICY ISSUES

Regional Study: On December 7, 1987 EPA Region IX gave approval for requesting funding for a regional asbestos study for the Pleasant Valley that would supplement the NPL mine site studies. The tentative deadline for completing the regional study is February 1989, pending availability of funds. You will be informed of the status of this study during the next few months.

Kit Fox: The Kit Fox, an endangered species, uses the Coalinga SPTC property in the city of Coalinga as foraging grounds. Protecting the Kit Fox per Federal and State regulations may delay the removal plans.

### 5. COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

City of Coalinga: Due to the sampling crew presence in Coalinga, there is heightened awareness of EPA and SPTC actions in town. In addition, SPTC has had to terminate several leases to local businesses in order to conduct the sampling and stabilization activities. EPA will be sending a fact sheet to Coalinga residents during the third week of December to review our activities and present sampling results; a copy of the fact sheet is attached (Attachment #5).

Another EPA fact sheet will be sent in February when the removal and clean-up options have been drafted by SPTC.

6. CONCLUSION:

- Much activity has occurred at the mine sites, in the city of Coalinga and on the regional asbestos problem.
- Your timely review of documents is essential in order for us to meet schedules. I appreciate, in advance, the time it will take for your reviews. Of course, you may participate in reviews voluntarily as you have time and as you choose.
- All of your organizations have copies of the documents EPA has prepared for these sites (i.e. sampling plans, QAPP, work plans, etc.). If you would like to review those plans, please contact your organization's primary contact. ~~If you have questions after reviewing any of the documents, do not hesitate to call me at (415) 974-8161.~~

Thank you all for your support.