REVIEW W/ GARY L. 12/5/88

STATE OF CALIFORNIA GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD—
LOS ANGELES REGION

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-4596
(213) 620-4460

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NO...

November 22, 1988

Mr. Gary Little
UTILITY TRAILER MANUFACTURING COMPANY
P.O. Box 1299
City of Industry, CA 91749

FACILITY GROUND WATER INVESTIGATION--ASSESSMENT REPORT SUBMITTAL
(FILE NO.AB105.296/87-19)

As discussed between yourself and Board staff member Dainis Kleinbergs, during the phone conversation on November 18, 1988, review of the Board's Ajax-Scoville investigation file indicates that there has been no off-site cyanide contamination of ground water at Ajax. At this time, you are directed to continue with your ground water investigation and submit ground water samples for laboratory analyses.

Presently, there are two problems that may cause some difficultly with the procurement of proper ground water samples for laboratory analyses. According to Chuck Stultz, of Hydro-Fluent, Incorporated, the first ground water samples submitted for laboratory analyses had high levels of turbidity and therefore were not analyzed. It is the Board staff policy that all ground water samples taken should be submitted for laboratory analysis and the sample turbidity reported. If the turbidity is greater than 10 ppm, then the results will not be accepted as valid, but can be used as an indicator for further investigation, if contamination is discovered. During the next ground water sampling, the ground water samples must be submitted for laboratory analyses, and the sample turbidity then reported.

The other problem is the possibility of cyanide contamination of the ground water and the subsequent potentially hazardous conditions of cyanide gas. During the most recent sampling attempt, two Draeger tubes indicated an ambient air concentration of 0.5 mg/cu.m. within the vicinity of the well. Extreme caution should be taken during the next sampling of the discovery well, if similar conditions still exist. If Draeger tubes still indicate the presence of cyanide, "Level B" (use of self-contained breathing apparatus) protection must be used during all phases of purging and sampling of the discovery well. Your consultant should be familiar with the necessary precautions.

Mr. Gary Little
Page Two

The due date for submittal of the assessment report will be December 30, 1989. If there are any further questions, please contact Dainis Kleinbergs at (213)620-5982.

ROY R. SAKAIDA
Senior Water Resource
Control Engineer

RRS:PBC:dk

cc: John F. Dablow III, Hydro-Fluent, Inc.
E. R. Davis, Hydro-Fluent, Inc.

Dominic Holzaus (Latham & Watkins)

Options ① Go down to water board & look through files to determine is ajax is not the problem. (Chuck Stultz, Hydro Fluent)
② Do what they tell us to do - Go in "moon suit" & take sample (very expensive) - bad option.
③

This is time if we are confident we are not responsible for cyanide