



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 9

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

In reply, refer to: WST-8

January 10, 2011

Ms. Diane Malone
Environmental Department Manager
Waste Regulatory and Compliance Department
Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 339
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Subject: **No Further Action Required at the Oljato Airstrip Underground Storage Tank (UST) Site (NAV-394) in Oljato (Monument Valley), Utah**

Dear Ms. Malone:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 9, Underground Storage Tank Program Office (USTPO) has completed our review of the November 2010 report "*Underground Storage Tank Closure Report Oljato Airstrip (NAV #394) Oljato (Monument Valley), Utah*" prepared by iina'ba. The report described the activities undertaken on August 17, 2010, at the Oljato Airstrip in Monument Valley. The work was managed by the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA) and was funded with the NNEPA's FY 2010 LUST Grant.

Site Background

The subject site is situated immediately east of the Oljato Trading Post, a well-known location south of the Monument Valley. The site was an airstrip built around 1940 by Ed Smith and was under operation until 6 to 11 years ago at the time of his death. During the 1970's, an individual tried to develop a business on the airstrip by emplacing two USTs to allow planes to refuel. The site consists of a gravel and asphalt runway, parking area, and a 5-foot by 5-foot wooden building which housed a weather station, and remnant fueling station that includes a dispenser pedestal and three vent pipes. The area is littered with debris that includes metal airplane tie-downs, several 55-gallon drums, and crushed scrap metal.

An earlier geophysical investigation performed by the NNEPA UST Program in August 2009 indicated that at least two USTs, with the possibility of another single geophysical "anomaly" interpreted as two additional USTs side by side were still at the site. The 2009 Geophysical Investigation report also identified four water supply wells within a one mile radius of the Oljato Airstrip. Only one well is listed as active, however the wells are downgradient and within 200 feet of the USTs, and may be impacted if the USTs were found to have leaked significantly. The NNEPA determined that the USTs were to be permanently closed by removal.

Site Assessment

On July 1, 2010 iina' ba was awarded the contract to remove four USTs at the Oljato Airstrip located in Oljato, Utah. As summarized in the report on September 29, 2010, iina' ba conducted field activities at the site which included removal of residual product/water from within each tank, properly removing and disposing of four tanks, collecting soil samples, and backfilling the excavation area.

Field observations indicated pitting and holes on two USTs. The soil screening photoionization detector (PID) measured low levels (1ppm – 35 ppm) volatile hydrocarbons in the native soil samples screened from the UST excavations. In addition, no staining or free-phase product was observed underneath the USTs and with the associated debris and piping. Confirmatory soil samples were taken from the former UST location. Results from the soil samples were non-detect for petroleum hydrocarbons and/or volatile organic compounds (ethylbenzene, total xylenes, methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE)). The slightly elevated lead concentrations in the soils (2.2 mg/kg to 38.9 mg/kg) in the soil samples may allude to the fact that leaded gasoline may have dispensed or lead may be naturally occurring in the local geology. The detected lead levels are well below the NNEPA action level of 400 mg/kg for lead in soil.

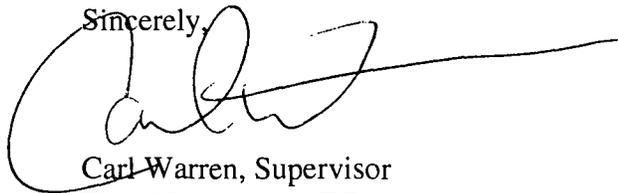
Groundwater was not encountered during this investigation. The excavated soil and clean fill from the area was used to completely backfill the excavation. The USTs and associated piping and debris were removed from the site and disposed at an approved facility.

Conclusion

Based on the findings presented in the report and a meeting held in December 2010, Henry Haven of NNEPA and EPA Region 9 agreed that no further action (NFA) was required at the site. If additional information becomes available in the future regarding hydrocarbon contamination in soil and/or groundwater at this site resulting from a release from a petroleum UST system, EPA or the NNEPA may reopen this site and require additional site assessment and/or corrective action.

If you have any questions regarding the information contained in this letter, please contact S. Bobby Ojha of my staff at (415) 972-3374 or you can contact me directly at (415)-972-3355.

Sincerely,



Carl Warren, Supervisor
Tribal Leaking UST Program

cc: Henry Haven, NNEPA
Warren Roan, NNEPA
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