



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX  
Underground Storage Tanks Program Office  
75 Hawthorne Street (WST-8)  
San Francisco, CA 94105

In reply, refer to: WST-8

September 28, 2011

Mr. Fred Orosco  
Compliance Supervisor  
Tohono O'odham Nation  
Solid Waste Regulatory Office  
P. O. Box 837  
Sells, AZ 85634

Subject: No Further Action at the Underground Storage Tank Site at the Topawa Village Church, Topawa, AZ (EPA ID# TOHO-015)

Dear Mr. Orosco:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 has completed our review of the information provided by your office on June 2011, regarding the subject site. During our June 2011 quarterly conference call with your office to discuss open leaking underground storage tank (LUST) sites on the Tohono O'odham Nation (TON), you stated that you found some old UST closure reports for the Mission Church site(s). The UST Site Closure report was dated February 3, 1999.

**Site Background:**

The Topawa Village Church underground storage tank (UST) was registered with U.S. EPA by the Franciscan Friars in 1985. In November 1998, Father Thomas Frost of the San Solano Mission notified the U.S. EPA of the intent to remove the two USTs located at the Topawa Village in the school that was run by the mission and were used to fuel the school buses. According to Father Frost, the USTs had been out of use since the 1970's. The UST removal and site characterization were undertaken in December 1998 and the work was performed by JBL and Associates of Phoenix, Arizona. The Environmental Office of the Tohono O'odham Nation (TON) provided field oversight of the removal work. The U.S. EPA did not receive the report for this UST removal and site characterization.

**Site Assessment**

On December 15, 1998, two, 1,000-gallon gasoline USTs were removed and disposed off site with accompanying certificate of disposal and recycling. The tanks were reported to be intact upon excavation with no visible holes or signs of leakage. Two soil samples were collected at both ends of the two UST locations at 10 feet below ground surface. Total petroleum hydrocarbons and benzene were not detected at the four sampling locations. Low concentration levels of toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes were detected at the west end of tank no. 2, but at levels below the 2011 EPA Regional Screening Levels. The depth to groundwater was not provided in the report. However, based on the

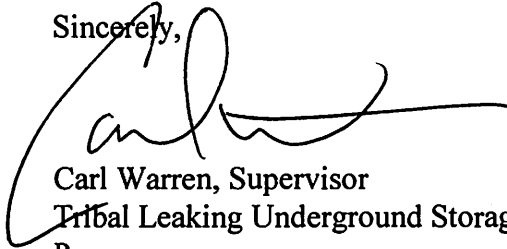
Arizona Department of Water Resources, groundwater depth is over 150 feet below land surface.

**Conclusion**

My staff has discussed our findings with you and your office has concurred with the EPA recommendation, of no further action for this site. However, if additional information becomes available in the future regarding hydrocarbon contamination in soil and/or groundwater at this site, EPA and or the TON may reopen this site and require additional site assessment and/or corrective action from the San Solano Mission Church.

If you have any questions regarding the information contained in this letter, please contact me directly at (415) 972-3355 or you can contract Tess Salire at (415) 972-3376.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Warren', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carl Warren, Supervisor  
Tribal Leaking Underground Storage Tanks  
Program

cc: San Solano Missions Parish  
Site File TOHO-015