



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 9

**75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901**

In reply, refer to: WST-8
Certified mail 7000 0520 0021 6109 8993

May 7, 2007

John F. Krause
Regional Environmental Scientist
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Western Regional Office
Phoenix Area Office
P.O. Box 10
Phoenix, AZ 85001

Re: No further action for the Underground Storage Tank (UST) site at the Santa Rosa Ranch School (TOHO-002), Sells, Arizona

Dear Mr. Krause:

In an effort to close out outstanding potential leaking underground storage tank sites on tribal lands, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 recently reopened the case file for the Santa Rosa Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Ranch School (TOHO-002) in Sells, Arizona. According to our files, a 1,000-gallon gasoline underground storage tank (UST) was installed in 1941 and was last used and removed in December 1992. We were unable to find a closure report in our files to document the removal of the UST and/or the condition of the site at the time of the removal.

After completing the review of this site file, EPA determined that this case required additional information to determine if any additional steps were required to proceed with closing the site or to require additional work. In an effort to gather additional information, EPA arranged to meet with John Graves of BIA and Fred Orosco of the Tohono O'odham Nation (TON) on April 19, 2007 to visit the site. The site reconnaissance showed no visible evidence of the UST system or any surficial contamination at the former location of the tank system. The interview with the school representative, Dexter Garcia, revealed that a teacher at the school took pictures of the UST removal but the pictures were not readily available at the time of our visit. According Mr. Garcia, the teacher did not recall any visible contamination at the site during the removal.

In the absence of the site characterization report, our assessment indicated that if there was any residual surface soil contamination remaining in the ground, exposure would be very minimal

because the school is in a remote location and the former UST location is in an area outside the main boundary of the school which limits campus traffic near the former UST system. Additionally, depth to groundwater is at least 300 feet below ground surface, which significantly limits threat to groundwater if there is any residual subsurface soil contamination in the UST area.

Based on the above information, EPA, BIA and TON concurred that the site does not pose a threat to human health and the environment and that no further action is warranted at this time. However, if additional information is found in the future indicating that contamination above regulatory levels remains at this site, EPA will work with the BIA to resolve these issues. If you have any questions regarding the information contained in this letter, please contact Carl Warren of my staff at (415) 972-3355.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Linder', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Steven C. Linder, Manager
Underground Storage Tanks Program Office

Cc: John Graves, BIA Phoenix Area Office
Fred Orosco, Tohono O'odham Nation Solid Waste Regulatory Office
Site file - TOHO-002