



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

JUL 20 2017

OFFICE OF
COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Reply To: OCE-101

Mr. Robert Witsell
General Electric Company
1935 Redmond Circle
Rome, Georgia 30165-3319

Re: Conditional Closure of One Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Well at the former TBE Machine Shop, 49200 Kenai Spur Highway, Nikiski, Alaska
UIC ID No. AK122P5-17-13489

Dear Mr. Witsell:

On March 10, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 10, Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program, received a copy of the *Class V Injection Permit and Septic Tank/Wood Crib Closure Report*, dated March 2017, for the closure of one motor vehicle waste disposal well (MVWDW) at the former TBE Machine Shop, 49200 Kenai Spur Highway, Nikiski, Alaska. This closure report was compiled by Arcadis U.S, Inc. on behalf of the General Electric Company (GE).

Closures of motor vehicle waste disposal wells are to be conducted under 40 CFR §§ 144.82, 144.89 and 146.10(c). The information provided to the EPA about the closure of the MVWDW at the Former TBE Machine Shop is detailed below.

The former TBE Machine Shop contained three floor drains, which conveyed wastewater through an oil/water separator and discharged into a cesspool. The cesspool was located 64 feet east of the facility. Sanitary waste originating from the facility was carried to a septic tank which then discharged into a wood crib three feet south of the cesspool. The cesspool was excavated and removed in 1998. At that time, it was discovered that an overflow pipe from the wood crib discharged into the cesspool. The oil/water separator was removed some time earlier.

The septic tank and wood crib were removed between September 28 and October 4, 2016. In accordance with a process approved by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), the six vertical feet of soil covering the tanks was removed and tested for contamination. Since testing showed that contaminant concentrations were acceptable, this soil excavated from above the tanks could then be used, along with locally-sourced borrow material, as backfill after the tanks and contaminated soils were removed from the site.

With the tank and crib uncovered, tank removal began. The wood crib was removed after 700 gallons of liquid were pumped out of it into a container for storage. Soil beneath the crib was excavated to a depth of 19 feet below ground surface, at which point the soil appeared unstained by contaminants. Next, six drums of solid material were removed from the fiberglass septic

tank. The tank and adjacent piping were then removed. Again, the visibly contaminated soil underlying the septic tank was excavated to a depth of 12 feet below ground surface. All tank and crib materials, as well as excavated soils, were stored in containers.

Samples collected from liquid and soils containerized at the site were tested and transported offsite for appropriate disposal.

In accordance with the approved work plan, a soil sample was collected from below the wood crib location. This sample was tested for concentrations of semi-volatile organics and total metals. The contaminant concentrations measured in this sample exceeded State of Alaska soil clean-up levels for 14 semi-volatile organics and for one metal, arsenic.

The EPA has reviewed the information provided regarding UIC Class V closure activities at the former TBE Machine Shop. Pursuant to the EPA's authorities under 40 C.F.R. §§ 144 and 146, the EPA conditionally approves the closure of the motor vehicle waste disposal well at the former TBE Machine Shop with the condition that the GE continue to work with the ADEC to address the contamination that remains in the ground in the area of the former MVWDW. GE is responsible for meeting all applicable UIC requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Please note that this approval does not impact GE's obligation to comply with other federal, state or local laws, or the EPA's authority to take future enforcement actions at the former TBE Machine Shop. If additional information becomes available indicating that the injection well closure activities at this facility were inadequate, then GE will be required to provide additional information to the EPA, and further efforts may be required in the future. If you have any questions, please contact Derek Schruhl of my staff at (206) 553-1146.

Sincerely,



Peter Contreras, Manager
Ground Water Unit

cc: Mr. Matt Pelton
ARCADIS

Mr. Peter Campbell
ADEC Contaminated Sites Program