



Tesoro Alaska Petroleum Company

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Department of
Environmental Conservation
Kenai District Office

March 13, 1987

Mr. Paul D. Horwath
Environmental Engineer
State of Alaska
Department of Environmental Conservation
P.O. Box 1207
Soldotna, AK 99669

Dear Mr. Horwath:

The following description of our recent investigation regarding the refinery's potable water system is provided as per our discussions during Mr. Buchholz and your recent visit.

Our Quality Control Lab personnel initiated the investigation and our initial test consisted of a composite sample from the lab for the one week period of February 4 to 9, 1987. This sample was sent to a state certified lab on February 10, 1987 and we were notified on February 24 that the sample had 44 ppb benzene. This prompted grab samples from four (4) locations on February 24 which we hand delivered to the commercial lab. On February 25 we received confirmation of the presence of benzene at these locations and placed signs on all drinking water locations in the refinery notifying employees to not drink water pending further notice. The grab samples of February 24 indicated the following levels of benzene:

Tank Farm Well (Well 2).....	240 ppb
Domestic Water Line.....	250 ppb
Lab.....	270 ppb
Maintenance.....	5.5 ppb

We made an investigation of the system including the three water wells and the distribution system and discovered that a valve which was used as an isolator between the fire water system and the main potable water supply line had malfunctioned and was leaking. The fire water system is under pressure that is greater than the potable water supply system and it is our belief that this was the source of the contamination. The sample results of February 24, 1987 seem to support this as the benzene levels were higher in the system (domestic water tanks and lab) than in the tank farm well.

We have responded by disconnecting this cross connection and as you are aware are in the process of providing a totally isolated portable water supply which includes a new well. We are also flushing the existing wells and are continuing our monitoring of the benzene levels. Samples taken March 3, 1987 indicate levels of 5.2 ppb in the maintenance shop and maintenance offices; 4.6 ppb in the warehouse; and 2.5 in the Hydrocracker. (These locations are serviced by well no. 3).

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The main well (no. 2) levels were reported at 200 ppb on March 4, 1987 and 340 ppb on March 10, 1987. The emergency water well no. 1 was at 5.1 ppb on March 9, 1987; and the maintenance shop building was at 0.3 and 0.9 ppb on March 9-10, 1987.

Additional investigation and sampling is planned from the plant and from test wells so that any other possible sources of contamination are ruled out/or discovered. The sampling is planned on at least a weekly basis and will initially be performed twice per week. We plan to continue the monitoring and take necessary corrective actions to assure this matter is corrected. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Necessary, Vice President of Refining; Eddie Brown, Quality Control Superintendent; or myself.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David B. Brown', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David B. Brown
Senior Mechanical Engineer

DBB/mrk

cc: Mark Necessary
Eddie Brown