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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, *Governor*

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD—
LOS ANGELES REGION

107 SOUTH BROADWAY, SUITE 4027
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012–4596
(213) 620-4460

August 25, 1988

Mr. Daniel F. Becker
Becker Manufacturing Company
P.O. Box 2277
Industry, CA 91746

SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATION - BECKER MANUFACTURING COMPANY FACILITY AT 215 MASON WAY, CITY OF INDUSTRY (FILE NO. 102.052)

Although staff of this Regional Board originally originally held off requesting action of you, beyond the chemical use questionnaire, observations during the inspection made on August 19, 1987 indicated some waste discharge had occurred to ground at the subject site. Reexamination of specific areas, both on and off-site, and installation of passive gas sampling devices was performed on June 29, 1988. Results from these devices indicate the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the soil at your site which are also found in nearby wells. We must request that you implement a subsurface investigation at your facility. General guidelines are enclosed.

The rationale for requiring this investigation of your facility is as follows:

1) Nearby wells, which provide public drinking water, have been determined to be contaminated above action level by various volatile chlorinated organic compounds. The Regional Board is involved in a toxics investigation to determine sources for the contamination.

2) Your chemical use questionnaire does not show a complete crossmatch with chemicals observed in the soil gas of the barrel storage area. Hence your former manufacturing operations are inferred to have had different chemical usage than exhibited at present.

3) Visible signs of waste discharge, deeply etched and stained concrete and stained asphalt and soil, were noted in the original inspection.

4) The four soil gas samples verified some potential pathways to ground which had been noted in the original site inspection. Two of these sample devices were placed off-site, in a patch of soil which exhibited stains emanating from your site. Chemicals verified by the devices include: dichloroebenzene, trichlorobenzene, 1,1-dichloroethylene, carbon tetrachloride, and various aromatic compounds.

Requirements include the following:

1. Facility Information

   a) Determine past and present use, storage, and disposal of chemicals. Cite past owners and operations at the facility. A site chemical usage summary must be developed.

   b) Possible sources and pathways for all chemicals which may have been used or stored on site must be determined and described.

2. Physical Plant

   a) Formally inspect the site for cracks and other avenues of leakage.

   b) Confirm the reason for apparent surface drainage to a round concrete depression in the asphalt, outside the former chemical storage room.

3. Subsurface Soil Investigations

   a) Develop soil investigation strategy to assess potential contamination.

   b) Utilize shallow soil sampling phase in conjunction with soil gas techniques.

   c) Indicate procedures to prevent loss of volatiles.

   d) Include details of the various practices applied in obtaining and analyzing the soil samples.

A workplan for conducting this subsurface investigation together with a schedule for implementation is due to this Regional Board by October 5, 1988. If you have any questions, please call Philip Chandler at (213) 620-6091.

Philip B. Chandler

for ROY R. SAKAIDA
Senior Water Resource
Control Engineer

PBC:sml

cc: See attached mailing list

Enclosure

Mailing List

Neil Ziemba (T-4-1), Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, Toxics and Waste Management Division
Nestor Acedera, Department of Health Services, Toxic Substance Control Division
Bill Jones, Los Angeles County, Department of Health Services
Thomas Stetson, Stetson Engineers, Engineer for the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster