Atlantic Richfield Company

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VIA EMAIL

May 31, 2017

Ms. Lynda Deschambault
U.S. EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-7-2)
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: Leviathan Mine Site, CERCLA Docket No. 2008-29(b)
Response to U.S. EPA's May 24, 2017 Approval of Atlantic Richfield Company's Crusher Road Slope Instability Monitoring Plan

Dear Ms. Deschambault:

This letter responds to U.S. EPA's May 24, 2017 letter concerning its review of a May 22, 2017 Amec Foster Wheeler memorandum titled "Crusher Road Slope Stability Monitoring Plan" ("Slope Monitoring Plan"), which describes the anticipated installation of monitoring points and monuments above and below the Crusher Road Slope on State-owned property at the Leviathan Mine site. The purpose of the monitoring described in this memo is only to inform decisions regarding the safety of Atlantic Richfield personnel performing work in the Pond 4 area, the integrity of Pond 4, and potential threats to the HDS Treatment System. Before installing monitoring points on State-owned property, Atlantic Richfield requested confirmation from Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board ("Water Board") staff that they would have no related concerns. We copied you on our transmittal of the memorandum to Doug Carey, so U.S. EPA would be kept informed of our plans. Atlantic Richfield was not soliciting U.S. EPA review or approval for the Slope Monitoring Plan.

Your May 24, 2017 letter directs Atlantic Richfield to take several actions relating to the Crusher Road Slope that are beyond the scope of the Slope Monitoring Plan. Atlantic Richfield will perform the monitoring described in the Slope Monitoring Plan to assess potential impacts to its water treatment operations. For the reasons stated below, Atlantic Richfield will not perform the additional actions requested in your letter.

Slope Stabilization. Your letter states that "ARC shall … make short and long term plans for stabilizing the slope." The Water Board already informed U.S. EPA that it is working with AECOM and the California Department of General Services to implement slope stabilization measures. No additional stabilization measures are required of Atlantic Richfield.

Unsealing Wells and Supplemental Groundwater Assessment. Your letter states that, during our May 23, 2017 meeting, "ARC and the Waterboard decided it was best" to unseal the groundwater monitoring wells near the Crusher Road Slope to relieve pore pressure within the slope. This is not

correct. No decision was reached to unseal the wells and allow them to discharge onto the ground surface during our meeting. As stated in Grant Ohland's May 26, 2017 email, maintaining sealed caps on these wells is not contributing to any slope instability. Allowing the wells to discharge water onto the ground surface will create muddy conditions, cause erosion, and could lead to a release of hazardous substances. Atlantic Richfield will continue to measure water levels and analyze water quality parameters in the monitoring wells near the Crusher Road Slope as part of the routine (semi-annual) On-Property Focused Remedial Investigation groundwater monitoring program, which is now underway for spring 2017.

Expanded Slope Stability Assessment. Your letter requests that ARC consider its monitoring results "within context of the entire slope and assess if there is a potential for larger scale movements at this area beyond the current slope instability." As long as the Crusher Road Slope remains in its current condition and continues to move, there is a potential for instability further up the slope. This is one reason that Atlantic Richfield has encouraged the Water Board to expedite its repairs. Atlantic Richfield offered to provide technical input and support to the Water Board, and we can share our monitoring results. Broader issues relating to slope instability and how slope conditions could affect remedy selection and implementation in this part of the site will be evaluated in the Feasibility Study and presumably as part of the remedial design process. No additional assessment of larger scale slope movements by Atlantic Richfield is warranted at this time.

If you have any related questions, please contact me at (657) 529-4537 or via e-mail at Anthony.Brown@bp.com.

Sincerely,

Tony Brown
Project Manager

cc: Douglas Carey, Lahontan Regional Water Qualit y Control Board
Scott Ferguson, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
Dana Barton, U.S. EPA
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Greg Reller, Burleson Consulting, Inc.
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