

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:

DRAFT CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT
ORDER, THE WIDE AWAKE MERCURY
MINE, COLUSA COUNTY

DEPOSITION OF VICTOR IZZO, R.G.

Rancho Cordova, California

Monday, September 28, 2009

Reported by:

ELIZABETH A. WILLIS-LEWIS, CSR, RPR
CSR No. 12155

Job No. 121648A

1 CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY BOARD

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15 Deposition of VICTOR IZZO, R.G., taken on behalf
16 of Robert and Jill Leal, at 11020 Sun Center Drive,
17 Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, California, beginning at
18 8:47 a.m. and ending at 2:18 p.m. on Monday, September
19 28, 2009, before Elizabeth A. Willis-Lewis, Certified
20 Shorthand Reporter No. 12155.

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1 believe that map is in the 5C-1 report.

2 Q. Did anyone in the regional board make any visit
3 to the Wide Awake Mine site to confirm the items
4 identified in the aerial photograph on page 1 of Exhibit
5 2?

6 A. Jeff or I did not. We weren't allowed on the
7 property.

8 Q. Have you ever been to the Wide Awake Mine site?

9 A. Yes, I have.

10 Q. When were you there?

11 A. 19 -- you know, I'm going to give you a range.

12 Q. That's fine.

13 A. I would say between around 1992, plus or minus
14 a couple years.

15 Q. And let me say in general when I ask you for a
16 date if you don't remember the exact date --

17 A. Right.

18 Q. -- if you remember approximately, that's great.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Why were you at the Wide Awake Mine site in
21 1992, plus or minus a couple of years?

22 A. We would -- we were doing a study of mine sites
23 in the central valley and they were identifying --
24 actually they were mapping the mine sites and
25 determining if there was any significant threat to water

1 quality.

2 Q. And did you determine whether there was any
3 significant threat to water quality from the Wide Awake
4 Mine site when you were there, let's say, in the early
5 '90s?

6 A. I actually wasn't the one who put the report
7 together. I was out there just helping because I was a
8 geologist. So I didn't make any determination.

9 Q. Who put the report together?

10 A. I have the report on my desk. Oh, yeah.
11 Montoya and -- I'm forgetting his first name.

12 Q. Is he a regional board person?

13 A. He was at the time.

14 Q. Do you remember the name of the report?

15 A. Not exactly. It was something about the
16 central valley mine sites. That is about all I remember
17 exactly.

18 Q. Do you know whether this report is available on
19 the internet?

20 A. I'm not sure.

21 Q. Would it be possible to get a copy from you?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. What do you remember about the Wide Awake Mine
24 site when you visited it in the early '90s?

25 A. I remember a lot of leased mining

1 foundations -- mine foundations, what appeared to be
2 furnace-type equipment. I remember some -- what we call
3 "mining waste piles" and some water flow through
4 there -- relatively small. We were there, you know,
5 late spring or early summer, I think.

6 Q. When you say, "mining foundations," or, "mine
7 foundations," what do you mean?

8 A. Well, when you go there, you know, you have
9 these brick (sic) that are typically used for furnaces.
10 They were there. You have heavy piping and clay-type
11 piping that can take heat. You have the stacks that
12 are -- and I believe at this site the stacks were down
13 on the ground from, you know -- from the furnace.

14 Q. Would it be fair to call these processing
15 facilities?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did you see any sign of a mine shaft?

18 A. I don't remember a mine shaft.

19 Q. And when you say, "mining waste piles," in
20 general what are you referring to?

21 A. Two types on that site. There was basically
22 rocks, you know, in the sense of 6 inches to a foot wide
23 that is kind of like waste rock that is not processed
24 rock piles. Also on that site you saw some fine-grain,
25 reddish material which is probably processed ore. That

1 is basically what I saw on that site.

2 Q. And do you remember that from your site visit?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Anything else you remember from your site visit
5 in the early '90s?

6 A. No, not much.

7 Q. Who took you there?

8 A. I was there -- his first name is Barry. Now I
9 remember -- Barry Montoya. He is the one who took me
10 there. Again, he was the -- you know, he controlled the
11 whole project.

12 Q. When you were at the Wide Awake Mine site in
13 the early 1990s did you meet or talk with anyone
14 associated with that property in any way?

15 A. I didn't.

16 Q. When you were there was there any -- anyone
17 accompanying you who wasn't a regional board person?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Was it just you and Barry Montoya?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Who told you that you couldn't go on the
22 property more recently?

23 A. Jeff would be a better one to answer that.

24 Q. It is your understanding that someone from the
25 regional board contacted the current owner of the Wide