

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER NO. 91-019
AGAINST
MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER
Twentynine Palms - San Bernardino County

The Executive Officer of the California Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, finds that:

1. The United States Department of the Navy (hereinafter referred to as the discharger) owns and operates the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) in Twentynine Palms, CA.
2. The Crash Fire Rescue (CFR) pit currently in use at MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms (located in the Camp Wilson Expeditionary Air Field) is adjacent to, and north of, the old CFR Pit No. 4 (designated as Installation Restoration (IR) Site No. 18). To comply with the requirements of the Toxic Pits Cleanup Act of 1984 (TPCA), a Hydrogeologic Assessment Report (HAR) for IR Site No. 18 was completed by ENSR Consulting and Engineering and received by this Office on October 31, 1990.
3. The HAR investigation revealed that the old CFR Pit No. 4 (IR Site No. 18) is not the only source of contamination in that vicinity. The operational CFR Pit, fuel bladder, and fuel line running from the bladder to the operational CFR Pit are all potential contributors to the contamination in the immediate area. Monitoring well No. 18-1, which is between old CFR Pit No. 4 and the operational pit, was found to contain 8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ benzene. Drinking water standards require less than 1 ppb benzene and this site is in an area designated for drinking water. (See Finding No. 8, below).
4. As a result of these preliminary findings, the Regional Board staff has made the determination that the operational CFR Pit, fuel bladder, and fuel line will be included in the TPCA site designated as IR Site #18.
5. All requirements of TPCA must now be met for the operational pit. This includes:
 - a. Completion of the HAR (or additional submittal to augment existing HAR for IR Site No. 18) to include the information described below, to be submitted by December 30, 1991.
 1. Proper closure of Monitoring Well No. 1.
 2. Installation of new monitoring wells, where appropriate, to fully delineate the lateral and vertical extent of contamination in the area of interest as described in Finding No. 4, above.
 3. Soil borings and/or additional soil vapor surveys to delineate vadose zone contamination.
 - b. Draft Closure Plans to be submitted by December 30, 1991.

6. Section 13304 of the California Water Code states, in part, that:

"Any person who has caused or permitted any waste to be discharged or deposited where it is, or probably will be, discharged into the waters of the State and creates, or threatens to create, a condition of pollution or nuisance, shall upon order of the Regional Board clean up such waste or abate the effects thereof, or, in the case of threatened pollution or nuisance, take other necessary remedial action."

7. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California designates the beneficial uses of ground and surface waters in this Region.

8. The beneficial use of ground waters in the Deadman Hydrologic Unit is:

a. Municipal Supply (MUN)

9. Contamination of the ground water with fuel would significantly impair the beneficial use of the ground water.

10. This enforcement action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15321, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, pursuant to Section 13304 of Division 7 of the California Water Code, the discharger shall comply with the following:

1. Within two weeks of receipt of this Cleanup and Abatement Order, submit to the Regional Board Office the name and address of the qualified professional retained to perform the required investigation.

2. Remove liquids, sludges and liner material (i.e. concrete) affected with hazardous wastes within one month of receipt of this Cleanup and Abatement Order.

3. Submit to the Regional Board by December 30, 1991 the HAR and a Closure Plan described in Finding No. 5. A HAR Workplan needs to be submitted before field work begins; allow two weeks for Regional Board review.

The HAR and Closure Plan must be prepared by a qualified professional who is registered as a Civil Engineer or certified as an Engineering Geologist in the State of California.

4. Clean up and abate the effects of the discharge of fuel as per the closure plan.

5. Submit quarterly progress reports on the 15th of April, July, October and January covering the preceding quarter (i.e. first quarter report, January through March, would be due April 15th).

ORDERED BY:

Philip A. Gumbert
Executive Officer

1-4-91

Date