



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

San Diego Region



Terry Tamminen
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, visit our website.

December 10, 2003

CERTIFIED MAIL
7002 2410 0000 4398 2107

Mr. Chris Panaitescu
Thrifty Oil Company
P.O. Box 2128
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

In Reply Refer to:
TSMC:50-575.05:peass

Dear Mr. Panaitescu:

RE: INVESTIGATION ORDER NO. R9-2003-0420
Thrifty Oil Company, Station 118, 4202 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, CA

In 1985, an unauthorized discharge of petroleum hydrocarbon waste to soil and ground water was reported from Thrifty Oil Company (Thrifty) Station #118. The waste was discharged from a fuel tanker truck which injected 4,200 gallons of fuel into a monitoring well, resulting in a condition of pollution in the underlying groundwater aquifer.

Gasoline discharged to the groundwater beneath the site has resulted in free phase gasoline floating on the water table which must be removed to the maximum extent practicable pursuant to California Code of Regulations Chapter 16, section 2655.¹ Additionally, the spread of dissolved-phase gasoline constituents in groundwater to uncontaminated parts of the aquifer must be stopped.

Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 86-52 directed Thrifty to cleanup and abate the effects of the discharge, however, the order did not require Thrifty to conduct a groundwater monitoring program and submit regular groundwater monitoring reports. A Groundwater monitoring program and regular monitoring reports are needed to assess the extent of contamination and the effectiveness of cleanup actions at the site. Without these reports, the Regional Board cannot verify the completion of corrective action. Therefore, the costs of preparing the reports bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports.

¹ Because groundwater in this basin has no designated beneficial uses and has been excepted by the Regional Board from municipal use designation under the terms and conditions of the State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 88-63, "Sources of Drinking Water Policy" the dissolved phase gasoline constituents in groundwater need not be cleanup up to water quality objectives in the Basin Plan.

Your are hereby ordered, pursuant to California Water Code (CWC) section 13267, to provide to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region groundwater monitoring reports that comply with the following:

- 1. **MONITORING:** The discharger shall measure groundwater elevations quarterly in all monitoring wells, and shall collect and analyze samples of groundwater from all monitoring wells using U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) analytical method 8015 for quantifying total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline and diesel, or an equivalent method approved by the Regional Board, and EPA method 8260b for volatile organic compounds including benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), tertiary butyl alcohol (TBA) and all other fuel oxygenates.

The discharger shall sample any new monitoring or extraction wells quarterly and analyze groundwater samples for the same constituents as shown above. The discharger may propose changes in the above sampling requirements; any proposed changes are subject to Regional Board approval.

- 2. **QUARTERLY GROUNDWATER MONITORING REPORTS:** The discharger shall submit quarterly groundwater monitoring reports to the Regional Board no later than 30 days following the end of the quarter according to the following schedule:

First Quarter (Jan-Mar)	Due no later than April 30
Second Quarter (Apr-Jun)	Due no later than July 30
Third Quarter (Jul-Sep)	Due no later than October 30
Fourth Quarter (Oct-Dec)	Due no later than January 30

This schedule shall commence with the submission of a quarterly monitoring report due on **January 30, 2004.**

The quarterly monitoring reports shall include:

- A. **Transmittal Letter:** The transmittal letter shall discuss any violations during the reporting period and actions taken or planned to correct the problem. The letter shall be signed by the discharger's principal executive officer or his/her duly authorized representative, and shall include a statement by the official, under penalty of perjury, that the report is true and correct to the best of the official's knowledge.
- B. **Groundwater Elevations:** Groundwater elevation data shall be presented in tabular form, with depth to groundwater, top of casing elevations, depths to the top of well screens, length of well screens and total depth for each well included in the monitoring program. For all wells containing floating free petroleum product (light non-aqueous phase liquids or LNAPL) include the measured thickness of LNAPL in a tabular form. A groundwater

elevation map should be prepared for each monitored water-bearing zone with the groundwater flow direction and calculated hydrologic gradients(s) clearly indicated in the figures(s). Historical groundwater elevations shall be included in the fourth quarterly report each year.

C. Reporting Groundwater Results:

1. Groundwater sampling data shall be presented in tabular form, and an isoconcentration map shall be prepared for constituents of concern for each monitored water-bearing zone, as appropriate. Time versus concentration plots and distance versus concentration plots that include groundwater elevation shall be prepared for constituents of concern for appropriate wells.
2. Provide a site plot plan which clearly illustrates the locations of monitoring wells, former/current underground storage tank systems (and product piping) and buildings located on site and immediately adjacent to the property lines of the site.
3. Provide a site plot plan with the most recent concentrations of total petroleum hydrocarbons and volatile aromatic hydrocarbons (e.g. benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, total xylenes, MTBE, TBA and other fuel oxygenates).
4. The report shall provide technical interpretations of the groundwater data, and describe any significant increases in contaminant concentrations since the last report, any measures proposed to address the increases, any changes to the Site Conceptual Model, and conclusions and recommendations for future action with each report.
5. The report shall describe analytical methods used, detection limits obtained for each reported constituent, and a summary of QA/QC data (including laboratory flags/comments).
6. The report shall indicate sample collection protocol, describe how investigation derived wastes are managed at the site, and include documentation of proper disposal of contaminated well purge water and/or soil cuttings removed from the site.
7. Historical groundwater sampling results shall be provided in tabular form and included in the fourth quarterly report each year.
8. Sampling data and groundwater elevation data shall be submitted via the internet to the GeoTracker data warehouse in the appropriate electronic deliverable format according to the schedule in item 3 above. The GeoTracker website address is <http://geotracker.swrcb.ca.gov>.

D. Status Report: The quarterly report shall describe relevant work completed during the reporting period (e.g. site investigation, interim remedial measures, results of implementation of the Corrective Action Plan) and work planned for the following quarter.

3. **VIOLATION REPORTS:** If the discharger violates requirements in Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 86-52, then the discharger shall notify the Regional Board office by telephone as

soon as practicable once the discharger has knowledge of the violation. Regional Board staff may, depending on violation severity, require the discharger to submit a separate technical report on the violation within five (5) working days of telephone notification.

4. **OTHER REPORTS:** The discharger shall notify the Regional Board in writing prior to any site activities, such as construction or underground tank removal, which have the potential to cause further migration of contaminants or which would provide new opportunities for site investigation.
5. **RECORD KEEPING:** The discharger or his/her agent shall retain data generated for the above reports, including lab results and QA/QC data, for a minimum of six (6) years after origination and shall make them available to the Regional Board upon request.
6. **GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM REVISIONS:** Revisions to the GMP may be ordered by the Regional Board, or requested by discharger. Prior to making GMP revisions, the Regional Board will consider the burden, including costs, of the groundwater monitoring reports relative to the benefits to be obtained from these reports.

Any person failing or refusing to furnish information required under the authority of CWC section 13267 or falsifying information submitted to the Regional Board pursuant to such a directive is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be subject to civil liability. Civil liability may be imposed administratively by the Regional Board in an amount of up to \$1,000 per day of violation (i.e., for each day of delay in submitting all information requested, or for each day that false information remains uncorrected).

If you wish to dispute the factual basis of, or the legal conclusions set forth in this order, you must submit all evidence and argument supporting rescission or modification of the order to the Regional Board within 14 days of the date of the order. Within 14 days the Regional Board will respond to your submission in writing, or advise you when a written response upholding, modifying, or rescinding the investigative order will be issued. You would have 30 days from the date of such response to file a petition for administrative review under Water Code section 13320 with the State Water Resources Control Board.

The heading portion of this letter includes a Regional Board code number noted after "In reply refer to:" In order to assist us in the processing of your correspondence please include this code number in the heading or subject line portion of all correspondence and reports to the Regional Board pertaining to this matter.

Mr. Panaitescu

- 5 -

December 10, 2003

If you have any questions, or require additional assistance, please contact Ms. Sue Pease of my staff at (858) 637-5596 or by email at peass@rb9.swrcb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



John H. Robertus
Executive Officer
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

JHR:jac:sjp

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California Environmental Protection Agency

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