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Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
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August 15, 2013

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HANDLING OF TREATED WATER FROM GROUNDWATER INTERIM MEASURES ACTIVITIES

Dear Mr. Elliott:

On March 12, 2013, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) approved the Groundwater Interim Measures (GWIM) which directed pumping at several wells at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory for groundwater source zone remediation and for plume front containment. The GWIM covered the pumping activities and conveyance of pumped groundwater to the groundwater extraction treatment system (GETS) which is permitted by Ventura County. The treated water from the GETS is discharged under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board – Los Angeles Region (RWQCB-LAR) into a tributary drainage of Bell Creek.

In letters dated July 1st, 2013, DTSC directed The Boeing Company (Boeing) and NASA to continue the hiatus of pumping activities and discharge from the GETS until December 2013, and to evaluate alternative approaches “for handling the treated water discharged from the GETS... to minimize any impacts to the natural groundwater and surface water flow systems and to evaluate potential reuse and/or reinjection approaches that may assist in the containment and/or remediation of the groundwater contaminant plumes.”

DTSC, Boeing and NASA have discussed some in-situ alternatives regarding shallow treatment approaches, in lieu of pumping at well WS-9A. In addition, DTSC, Boeing, NASA, RWQCB-LAR and the community have discussed permit modification issues regarding alternative discharge locations.

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While the evaluation of alternatives continues, DTSC recommends Boeing and NASA immediately evaluate alternative discharge locations and pursue temporary and/or permanent modifications for the handling of the treated water, under the guidance and direction of the RWQCB-LAR, to minimize any impacts to the natural groundwater and surface water flow.

If you have any questions, please contact me at Mark.Malinowski@dtsc.ca.gov or (916) 255-3717.

Sincerely,



Mark Malinowski
Project Manager
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cc: (via e-mail)

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