

April 12, 2000

Kevin Delaney, P.E. Environmental Engineer I Division of Environmental Remediation NYS Department of Environmental Conservation 615 Erie Blvd. West Syracuse, NY 13204

Re: SCM Site-Town of Cortlandville- 1999 Annual Report

Dear Kevin:

In our correspondence to you of 10-20-99, we submitted stripper influent and effluent data for the first three quarters of 1999. We also apprised you of changes in ownership at the subject site and plans for subdivision of two lots from the northeast corner of the SCM parcel pending NYSDEC approval. This report will present the fourth quarter air stripper data, monitoring well data from the Fall of 1999, and present an overview of 1999 activities. Recommendations for changes in stripper operation are also included. Two spreadsheets of analytical data are attached for your review.

This Annual Report has been reproduced without the 48 pages of analytical laboratory reports.

The results of these reports are included in the summary on the two page spreadsheet titled

"SCM Site, Town of Cortlandville,

Historical TCE, Total VOC."

First, it is our understanding that NYSDEC approved the petition for change in property description, and that the two lots are no longer considered a part of the listed site. As a part of the petition presented in the Fall of 1999, monitoring well data and a contaminant plume map were presented. The map is included in this package for reference.

Although the site changed ownership in 1999, the new owner, SCWP LLP, was able to retain the services of a long-time Smith Corona Manager, Michael Chernago. Mr. Chernago has been involved in the remediation project and site listing from the beginning in the mid-1980's. He was responsible for management of the air stripper and liaison with O'Brien and Gere during Smith Corona's final years of ownership. In his new position with SCWP, Mr. Chernago continues to be responsible for operation and maintenance of the system and directs our firm's monitoring and reporting activities.

Mr. Chernago has apprised us that the air stripper operated continuously during 1999 except for less than one day downtime for routine maintenance. The pumping rate at the end of the year was 830 gpm, which leads to a conclusion that at least 435 million gallons of ground water were pumped and treated during 1999. Influent and effluent samples were obtained and analyzed on a quarterly basis during 1999 and are summarized in an enclosed spreadsheet entitled Air Stripper Data. The average 1999 influent concentration was 8.0 ug/l, which continues to indicate a trend of improving groundwater quality.

Recovery Well Average TCE Concentration

1996 19 ug/l 16 ug/l 1997 1998 13 ug/l 1999 8 ug/l

None of the four effluent samples had any detectable amount of TCE or other halogenated volatile organics present. The maximum permissible level of TCE in the effluent is the same as the drinking water standard of 5.0 ug/l.

BUCK ENGINEERING BUCK ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES, INC. Mr. Delaney 4-12-00 Page 2

Sixteen monitoring wells from the SCWP site were sampled on 8-27-99. Two additional wells were sampled on 9-8-99 after removing bees' nests from the casings. Two new wells were installed and sampled on 11-2-99. This composite sampling event is summarized on the attached spreadsheet entitled *Historical TCE, Total VOC-SCM Site*. Eight wells have TCE concentrations in excess of the 5 ug/l groundwater standard while ten wells meet the standard. The two wells with the highest total VOC concentrations were MW-11 (35 ug/l) and MW-7 (31 ug/l). The highest groundwater TCE concentration on the SCWP site was 24 ug/l at MW-7. The well data indicate that groundwater quality is continuing to improve at the site.

It is apparent that, although the current remediation system has worked well, operating the stripper at current flow rates and groundwater concentrations is extremely inefficient. During 1999 the stripper cost approximately \$75,000 in energy costs and removed approximately 45 lb of TCE (\$1,700/lb). The stripper was designed to handle high concentrations of TCE and the recovery well was positioned sufficiently downgradient from the spill area to capture the leading edge of the plume. Two recommendations follow from this.

First, because the average influent concentration is now so low, the stripper can meet discharge limits with normal gravitational aeration (i.e., blower turned off). This was demonstrated in an experiment on 7-20-99 when the system was operated with the blower turned off for approximately 5 hours. The results were as follows:

10:15 am	influent to tower	8.1 ug/l TCE
12:15 pm	11 11	8.7 ug/l
12:17 pm	effluent at tower	2.9 ug/l
2:15 pm	Influent to tower	9.0 ug/l
2:17 pm	effluent at tower	2.8 ug/l
2:20 pm	effluent at end of pipe	2.8 ug/l
2:22 pm	effluent, bottom water cascade	1.2 ug/l

It is clear that the stripper can remove approximately 70% of the TCE with the blower off and the resultant discharge (at the bottom of the water cascade) is only 25% of the allowable level. This change in operation would save approximately \$13,000/yr.

Second, the two highest concentrations of TCE are approximately 200' from the existing recovery well. A small, shallow, recovery well placed northwest of MW-7 could more directly impact the TCE in that area of the plume. Assuming a flow rate of approximately 25-75 gpm, the tower would have no difficulty handling the additional flow. By operating this additional recovery well, it is likely that the original recovery well would meet the TCE groundwater standard within a year or so and the entire remediation system could then be reduced in scope. The cost to install this additional recovery well is estimated at \$10,000-\$12,000.

Monitoring activities for 2000 have been scheduled and are now underway. The aeration tower will be monitored quarterly and the on-site wells will be sampled once during the year pending your review and recommendations.



Mr. Delaney 4-12-00 Page 3

Please call any time if you have questions with the content of this report. If I don't hear from you first, I'll contact you in a few weeks to discuss the recommendations above and any comments or suggestions you may have.

Sincerely,

John H. Buck, P.E.

President

Attachments:

Spreadsheet-Air Stripper Data
Spreadsheet-Historical TCE
4th quarter stripper lab reports
Monitoring well lab reports
Drawing-Monitoring Well Location Plan

Cc:

K. Ochs (SCWP)

C. Shafer, Esq. (RSS)

M. Chernago (SCWP)

J. Helgren, P.E. (CCHD)



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10-29-90	84	na	1	na		
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11-05-90	32	na	1	na		
11-07-90	35	na	1	na		
11-09-90	32	na	1	na		
11-12-90	32	na	1	na		
12-13-90	34	na	nd	na		
01-17-91	39	na	nd	na		
03-07-91	43	na	1	na		
4-11 - 91	47	na	nd	na		
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2-20-92	14	3	nd	nd		
5-13-92	32	9	nd	nd		
8-18-92	34	10	nd	nd		
11-23-92	29	10	nd	nd		
2-18-93	31	8	nd	nd		
5-20-93	37	6	nd	nd		
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2-27-96	16	2	nd	nd		
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Notes: 1. Units are ug/l.

2. Data from 2/90 thru 11/98 were transcribed from an OBG spreadsheet.

3. Data after 11/98 were entered directly from lab reports.

4. Most data are from Upstate Labs, inc. Data after xxx is from Buck Env. Labs, inc.

5. Wells xxx and xxx were installed in 1999 by Buck Engineering.