

Danielle R. Taber

From: JWALWORT@FCLAW.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 4:56 PM
To: Danielle R. Taber
Cc: SAMES@FCLAW.com; AGOMEZ@FCLAW.com
Subject: Nucor Comments re: Working Group FS
Attachments: 1.14.15 Comments re Working Group FS.pdf

****SENT ON BEHALF OF SCOTT AMES****

Please find the attached comments on the Working Group Feasibility Study Report submitted on behalf of Nucor Corporation.

Thank you.

Jenny Walworth | Assistant to Marc Lamber | Fennemore Craig, P.C.
2394 E. Camelback Road, Suite 600 | Phoenix, AZ 85016-3429
Tel: 602.916.5222



www.FennemoreCraig.com

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FENNEMORE CRAIG, P.C.

2394 East Camelback Road, Suite 600
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-3429
(602) 916-5000

Scott K. Ames
Direct Phone: (602) 916-5339
Direct Fax: (602) 916-5539
sames@fclaw.com

Law Offices
Denver (303) 291-3200
Las Vegas (702) 692-8000
Nogales (520) 281-3480
Phoenix (602) 916-5000
Reno (775) 788-2200
Tucson (520) 879-6800

January 14, 2015

VIA E-MAIL TABER.DANIELLE@AZDEQ.GOV

Ms. Danielle Taber
Project Manager
Waste Programs Division
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
1110 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: The West Van Buren WQARF Site Working Group's Feasibility Study Report

Dear Ms. Taber:

These comments are submitted on behalf of Nucor Corporation ("Nucor") and address issues raised in the Feasibility Study Report ("FS Report") prepared by Haley & Aldrich, Inc. on behalf of the West Van Buren WQARF Site Working Group ("Working Group"). At the outset, it is important to emphasize that Nucor's comments do not take issue with the Working Group's feasibility study or recommended remedies for groundwater contamination in the West Van Buren WQARF Area ("WVBA"). Instead, these comments address the Working Group's allegations that contamination is entering into the West Van Buren WQARF Area ("WVBA") from the West Osborn Complex ("WOC") located in West Central Phoenix ("WCP"). These comments focus on the following three issues: (1) the Working Group alleges, but does not demonstrate, any mass flux of contamination migrating into the WVBA from WCP; (2) the Working Group mistakenly assumes that any contamination migrating into the WVBA from WCP, if any, originates at the WOC; and (3) the Working Group's groundwater flow model was not developed for, and is not capable of, identifying or distinguishing between potential sources of contamination in WCP.

The Working Group indicates that one step of its "FS technical approach" is to evaluate "the VOC mass flux into the WVBA from . . . the WOC WQARF site." FS Report, p. 3. To the extent the Working Group performed this step, the results do not appear in its FS Report. However, to the extent the Working Group determined that any contamination is migrating from WCP into the WVBA, it provides no independent basis for that conclusion in its FS Report.

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Ms. Danielle Taber

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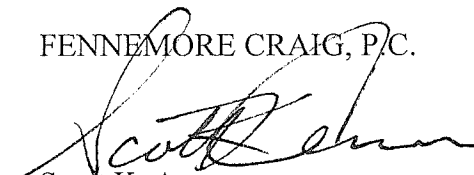
Instead, the Working Group relies on, but misstates, information set forth in the WVBA Remedial Investigation. The Working Group states that “ADEQ concluded that the downgradient extent of the WOC WQARF plume has merged with the WVBA.” FS Report, p. A-13. First, ADEQ actually stated only that “VOCs appear to be entering the central portion of the WVBA from the north.” *Id.* (emphasis added). Second, suggesting that contamination may be entering the WVBA from the north does not even remotely identify the WOC as the source of that contamination. The 2012 Final Feasibility Study Report for the Shallow Groundwater System of the WOC WQARF Site (“WOC FS”) indicates that contamination in the southern portion of WCP may have originated from multiple sources. *See* WOC FS, pp. 24-26; *id.* at Fig. 3-11.

Finally, the Working Group developed a groundwater flow model for use in performing its feasibility study. Nucor’s consultants have not been provided access to the model’s electronic input/output files and therefore, these comments are based solely on the groundwater modeling report submitted with the FS Report. In its FS Report, the Working Group acknowledges that the groundwater flow model was developed to gain a better understanding of groundwater flow within the WVBA. FS Report, p. 3. The Working Group further acknowledges that the model’s calibration statistics are reasonable “in the primary area of interest(the central portion of the model domain).” FS Report, Appendix D, p. 3. The WOC is not located in the central portion of the model domain nor are any of the model calibration targets located at the WOC. FS Report, Fig. 3-1.

Once again, these comments do not address the merits of the Working Group’s FS Report and its recommended remedies. Instead, these comments are intended simply to point out that the identification of contaminant sources within WCP remains unresolved.

Sincerely,

FENNEMORE CRAIG, P.C.



Scott K. Ames

SAME/tmm