

DOCUMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATOR DETERMINATION

Interim Final 2/5/99

RCRA Corrective Action Environmental Indicator (EI) RCRIS code (CA750)

Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control

Facility Name: Ninigret Technologies Park

Facility Address: 2950 Andrews Av. Salt Lake City, UT 84104

Facility EPA ID #: UTD009073800

1. Has **all** available relevant/significant information on known and reasonably suspected releases to the groundwater media, subject to RCRA Corrective Action (e.g., from Solid Waste Management Units (SWMU), Regulated Units (RU), and Areas of Concern (AOC)), been **considered** in this EI determination?

x If yes - check here and continue with #2 below.

If no - re-evaluate existing data, or

if data are not available, skip to #8 and enter "IN" (more information needed) status code.

BACKGROUND

Definition of Environmental Indicators (for the RCRA Corrective Action)

Environmental Indicators (EI) are measures being used by the RCRA Corrective Action program to go beyond programmatic activity measures (e.g., reports received and approved, etc.) to track changes in the quality of the environment. The two EI developed to-date indicate the quality of the environment in relation to current human exposures to contamination and the migration of contaminated groundwater. An EI for non-human (ecological) receptors is intended to be developed in the future.

Definition of "Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control" EI

A positive "Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control" EI determination ("YE" status code) indicates that the migration of "contaminated" groundwater has stabilized, and that monitoring will be conducted to confirm that contaminated groundwater remains within the original "area of contaminated groundwater" (for all groundwater "contamination" subject to RCRA corrective action at or from the identified facility (i.e., site-wide)).

Relationship of EI to Final Remedies

While Final remedies remain the long-term objective of the RCRA Corrective Action program the EI are near-term objectives which are currently being used as Program measures for the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, GPRA). The "Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control" EI pertains ONLY to the physical migration (i.e., further spread) of contaminated ground water and contaminants within groundwater (e.g., non-aqueous phase liquids or NAPLs). Achieving this EI does not substitute for achieving other stabilization or final remedy requirements and expectations associated with sources of contamination and the need to restore, wherever practicable, contaminated groundwater to be suitable for its designated current and future uses.

Duration / Applicability of EI Determinations

EI Determinations status codes should remain in RCRIS national database ONLY as long as they remain true (i.e., RCRIS status codes must be changed when the regulatory authorities become aware of contrary information).

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2. Is **groundwater** known or reasonably suspected to be "**contaminated**"¹ above appropriately protective "levels" (i.e., applicable promulgated standards, as well as other appropriate standards, guidelines, guidance, or criteria) from releases subject to RCRA Corrective Action, anywhere at, or from, the facility?

 Yes If yes - continue after identifying key contaminants, citing appropriate "levels," and referencing supporting documentation.

 If no - skip to #8 and enter "YE" status code, after citing appropriate "levels," and referencing supporting documentation to demonstrate that groundwater is not "contaminated."

 If unknown - skip to #8 and enter "IN" status code.

Rationale and Reference(s) A series of environmental investigations and corrective action were completed in phases at the 405-acre site between 2001 and 2011. An impoundment complex contained low pH waste containing various metals associated with site processes. These impoundments were generally successful in containing liquid waste within fine grained material utilized for impoundment bottoms and berms. There were however locations where coarse grained sand was present which served as a conduit where contaminants migrated into the shallow unconfined aquifer. Site remediation activities accomplished much in treating large volumes of impacted groundwater, however residual impacts still exist at two locations on the site.

A groundwater study was conducted in 2008 which documented that the residual impacts consist of low pH groundwater that contain arsenic, cadmium, and selenium above appropriate risk-based levels (0.05, 0.01, and 0.01 mg/l respectively).

Terracon Consultants, Inc., 2008b. *Offsite Groundwater Sampling Report, former Engelhard Alum Ponds (SWMU #20) Area, Salt Lake City, Utah (November 2008)*.

Footnotes:

¹"Contamination" and "contaminated" describes media containing contaminants (in any form, NAPL and/or dissolved, vapors, or solids, that are subject to RCRA) in concentrations in excess of appropriate "levels" (appropriate for the protection of the groundwater resource and its beneficial uses).

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3. Has the **migration** of contaminated groundwater **stabilized** (such that contaminated groundwater is expected to remain within “existing area of contaminated groundwater”² as defined by the monitoring locations designated at the time of this determination)?

 Yes If yes - continue, after presenting or referencing the physical evidence (e.g., groundwater sampling/measurement/migration barrier data) and rationale why contaminated groundwater is expected to remain within the (horizontal or vertical) dimensions of the “existing area of groundwater contamination”².

 If no (contaminated groundwater is observed or expected to migrate beyond the designated locations defining the “existing area of groundwater contamination”²) - skip to #8 and enter “NO” status code, after providing an explanation.

 If unknown - skip to #8 and enter “IN” status code.

Rationale and Reference(s)

The presence of artesian conditions from a deeper confined aquifer beneath the site has precluded vertical migration of contaminants. Off-site migration of contaminated groundwater was not observed during 2008. A site-wide monitoring plan has been in place since 2010, and 8 rounds of sampling have been completed. The on-going groundwater monitoring has not observed off-site migration to date.

Alkaline soil and near-neutral groundwater conditions that naturally occur in the area likely serve to buffer the relatively low pH impacted site water as it moves down-gradient. The resulting rise in pH would cause dissolved metals to precipitate from groundwater with a limiting effect on metals migration.

Terracon Consultants, Inc., 2019. *Sitewide Groundwater Monitoring Report (Eighth Monitoring Event), former Engelhard Facility, Salt Lake City, Utah (March 2019)*.

² “existing area of contaminated groundwater” is an area (with horizontal and vertical dimensions) that has been verifiably demonstrated to contain all relevant groundwater contamination for this determination, and is defined by designated (monitoring) locations proximate to the outer perimeter of “contamination” that can and will be sampled/tested in the future to physically verify that all “contaminated” groundwater remains within this area, and that the further migration of “contaminated” groundwater is not occurring. Reasonable allowances in the proximity of the monitoring locations are permissible to incorporate formal remedy decisions (i.e., including public participation) allowing a limited area for natural attenuation.

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6. Can the **discharge** of “contaminated” groundwater into surface water be shown to be “**currently acceptable**” (i.e., not cause impacts to surface water, sediments or eco-systems that should not be allowed to continue until a final remedy decision can be made and implemented)?

_____ If yes - continue after either: 1) identifying the Final Remedy decision incorporating these conditions, or other site-specific criteria (developed for the protection of the site’s surface water, sediments, and eco-systems), and referencing supporting documentation demonstrating that these criteria are not exceeded by the discharging groundwater; OR
2) providing or referencing an interim-assessment,⁴ appropriate to the potential for impact, that shows the discharge of groundwater contaminants into the surface water is (in the opinion of a trained specialists, including ecologist) adequately protective of receiving surface water, sediments, and eco-systems, until such time when a full assessment and final remedy decision can be made. Factors which should be considered in the interim-assessment (where appropriate to help identify the impact associated with discharging groundwater) include: surface water body size, flow, use/classification/habitats and contaminant loading limits, other sources of surface water/sediment contamination, surface water and sediment sample results and comparisons to available and appropriate surface water and sediment “levels,” as well as any other factors, such as effects on ecological receptors (e.g., via bio-assays/benthic surveys or site-specific ecological Risk Assessments), that the overseeing regulatory agency would deem appropriate for making the EI determination.

_____ If no - (the discharge of “contaminated” groundwater can not be shown to be “**currently acceptable**”) - skip to #8 and enter “NO” status code, after documenting the currently unacceptable impacts to the surface water body, sediments, and/or eco-systems.

_____ If unknown - skip to 8 and enter “IN” status code.

Rationale and Reference(s): _____ NA see #4 above _____

4 Note, because areas of inflowing groundwater can be critical habitats (e.g., nurseries or thermal refugia) for many species, appropriate specialist (e.g., ecologist) should be included in management decisions that could eliminate these areas by significantly altering or reversing groundwater flow pathways near surface water bodies.

5 The understanding of the impacts of contaminated groundwater discharges into surface water bodies is a rapidly developing field and reviewers are encouraged to look to the latest guidance for the appropriate methods and scale of demonstration to be reasonably certain that discharges are not causing currently unacceptable impacts to the surface waters, sediments or eco-systems.

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7. Will groundwater **monitoring** / measurement data (and surface water/sediment/ecological data, as necessary) be collected in the future to verify that contaminated groundwater has remained within the horizontal (or vertical, as necessary) dimensions of the “existing area of contaminated groundwater?”

 Yes If yes - continue after providing or citing documentation for planned activities or future sampling/measurement events. Specifically identify the well/measurement locations which will be tested in the future to verify the expectation (identified in #3) that groundwater contamination will not be migrating horizontally (or vertically, as necessary) beyond the “existing area of groundwater contamination.”

 If no - enter “NO” status code in #8.

 If unknown - enter “IN” status code in #8.

Rationale and Reference(s): Groundwater monitoring is required by the following Site Management Plans: The Western Alum Ponds (approved July 13, 2004), The Plant Site Area (approved December 23, 2008), The Eastern Alum Ponds (approved September 13, 2004), and The Pyrite Pile (approved June 14, 2011). All plans required development of a Sitewide Groundwater Monitoring Plan.

The Sitewide Groundwater Monitoring Plan (approved September 15, 2010) is still in full effect at the site. The “interior” wells (MW-13R and MW11) monitor groundwater at the two impacted locations at the site and are required to be monitored until the Division determines otherwise. Their associated sentry wells (MW-6, MW-7, and MW12 for MW-13R, and MW-3, MW-4R, and MW-5 for MW-11) are also required to be monitored until determined otherwise.

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8. Check the appropriate RCRIS status codes for the Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control EI (event code CA750), and obtain Supervisor (or appropriate Manager) signature and date on the EI determination below (attach appropriate supporting documentation as well as a map of the facility).

Yes Yes, "Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control" has been verified. Based on a review of the information contained in this EI determination, it has been determined that the "Migration of Contaminated Groundwater" is "Under Control" at the facility, EPA ID # UTD0090733800, located at 2950 Andrews Av. Salt Lake City, UT 84104. Specifically, this determination indicates that the migration of "contaminated" groundwater is under control, and that monitoring will be conducted to confirm that contaminated groundwater remains within the "existing area of contaminated groundwater" This determination will be re-evaluated when the Agency becomes aware of significant changes at the facility.

NO - Unacceptable migration of contaminated groundwater is observed or expected.

IN - More information is needed to make a determination.

Completed by (signature) Rolf Johnson Date 5/8/19
(print) Rolf Johnson
(title) Environmental Engineer III

Supervisor (signature) Brad Maulding Date 5/8/19
(print) Brad Maulding
(title) Environmental Program Manager
(EPA Region or State) Utah

Locations where References may be found:

Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control
195 North 1950 West
P.O. Box 144880
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4880

Contact telephone and e-mail numbers

(name) Rolf Johnson
(phone#) 801-536-0242
(e-mail) Rjohnsson@utah.gov