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MEMORADUM

TO: Raj Solomon, Pool Program Manager
FROM: Art Vollmer, Compliance & Technical Assistance Program Manager
SUBJECT: CHAPARRAL PARK POOL SITE, LOVINGTON
DATE: July 24, 2007

On June 5, 2007, Doug Hopinkah of my staff met with Neil Granath, a Lovington city commissioner, and others as part of an investigation into a report of buried drums at the proposed site of an aquatics center in Chaparral Park in Lovington. A former employee of Caprock Pipe and Supply reported that he witnessed between 200 to 500 55-gallon drums of lacquers, thinners, and paint related wastes in a pit at the site where the aquatics center was planned. The pit is said to be approximately 25 feet deep with depth to ground water at approximately 60 feet. Other items such as asbestos piping, demolition debris, and bug repellents were also reportedly dumped in the pit. These dumpings took place in the early to mid-1990's. During the meeting NMED expressed concern that the site was at least an illegal solid waste dump site if not a hazardous waste dump site and that soils and possibly groundwater at the site needed to be investigated for nature and extent of contamination.

Subsequently a sampling event was conducted at Chaparral Park on June 14, 2007 by Eddie Seay Consulting in response to NMED's concerns. Information from this sampling event shows that one borehole was drilled on the eastern side and one on the western side of the area-of-concern. In boring #1 on the eastern side of pit, debris such as wood, metal, gravel and dark soils were discovered within the first 13 feet of drilling. At the 12-13 foot depth, metal was hit and destroyed the bit. Samples were collected at 10-foot intervals to a total depth of 45 feet. In boring #2 on the western side of pit, debris such as wood, gravel, dark soils, and plastics were discovered. Samples were collected at 10-foot intervals to a total depth of 50 feet. Soil samples were tested for BTEX and pesticides and the results showed those organics were not present.

Results from the June 14, 2007 confirm that the area-of-concern does contain, at a minimum, buried materials such as wood, metal, and plastic. However, the soils were only tested for BTEX and pesticides, which would not have detected the presence of most of the common solvent found in paint-related wastes. The pesticide sampling appeared to be limited to only a couple of

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pesticides and not the pesticides typically of concern in a hazardous waste investigation. In addition, no samples were collected at locations directly within the area-of-concern such as from the center and down-gradient areas and the investigation used a 10-ft sampling intervals.

The NMED finds that the sampling was inadequate to characterize the site given the information obtained from the witnesses to the alleged dumping. Based on the witnesses statements and the fact that the June 14, 2007 boring showed the presence of buried debris, NMED finds that there is still sufficient reason to be concerned about buried waste at the site and that additional investigation is warranted to ascertain the nature of the buried material and the extent of possible migration.

The Hazardous Waste Bureau makes the following minimum recommendations to address its concerns regarding potential hazardous waste being buried at the location in question:

- New borings should be obtained that allow samples to be taken throughout the entire area-of-concern. In addition, the sampling interval should be decreased to at least every 5 feet rather than the 10-ft interval used in June.
- Soils need to be analyzed for the entire list of toxicity characteristic organic compounds listed in 40 CFR 261.24 and for total volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds using EPA approved methods.
- NMED should have representatives onsite at the time of the sampling to obtain split samples for independent analysis.

Should you have any questions regarding these recommendations, please contact me at 476-6004 or Doug Hopinkah, HWB's lead for this issue, at 222-9542.

cc: Doug Hopinkah, NMED HWB