Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Secretary for
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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
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March 15, 2016

Mr. Thomas A. Deeney
Vice President – Corporate Compliance & Auditing
AMETEK, Inc.
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REVIEW OF FOURTH QUARTER 2015 SOIL VAPOR AND INDOOR AIR MONITORING REPORT, MAGNOLIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 650 GREENFIELD DRIVE, EL CAJON (SITE CODE: 404722)

Dear Mr. Deeney:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has reviewed the Fourth Quarter 2015 Soil Vapor and Indoor Air Monitoring Report (Report), prepared by Environmental Resources Management (ERM), dated January 29, 2016 and received on February 1, 2016, for the Magnolia Elementary School site (Site). The Report includes site background information and results of soil vapor and indoor air monitoring activities to evaluate the potential impact to the school from the adjacent former Ketema facility contamination.

The Site consists of approximately 10 acres and has been the current Magnolia Elementary School since 1952. Surrounding land use includes Greenfield Drive to the south, residences to the west and north, and the former Ketema facility to the east. The adjacent former Ketema facility was built in the 1950s and was operated as an aerospace and electronics manufacturing facility since that time. Groundwater investigation and monitoring have been conducted at the adjacent former Ketema facility since 1987. Wells are monitored and sampled routinely under the oversight of the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, as part of the overall groundwater sampling program associated with the former Ketema facility. Chlorinated volatile organic compounds have historically been detected in groundwater samples collected from Site monitoring wells. An interim remedial measure extraction system has been operating at the former Ketema site since October 2012, and in situ treatment of groundwater began in September 2015.

In accordance with a Consent Order and DTSC-approved Soil Vapor Monitoring Work Plan, soil vapor monitoring at the Site was conducted on an annual basis between 2010 and 2012 to ensure there continues to be no impact to the Site from Ketema. Based on US EPA revisions to trichloroethylene (TCE) health risk criteria, DTSC requested Ametek to increase sampling frequency to quarterly. Quarterly soil gas and indoor air sampling have been conducted at the School since 2012. Since August 2014, indoor air samples have been collected from all classrooms at the Site.

Based on its review, DTSC concurs with the Report's recommendation to continue quarterly monitoring of soil gas, indoor and outdoor air, and to discontinue sampling from deeper soil vapor probes provided the enclosed comments are addressed during fieldwork/future reports. Revisions to the Report are no longer necessary.

If you have any questions regarding the project, please contact Ms. Ivy Osornio, Project Manager, at (714) 484-5433 or me at (714) 484-5368.

Sincerely,

Shahir Haddad, P.E.
Supervising Engineer
Schools Evaluation and Brownfields Cleanup Branch
Brownfields and Environmental Restoration Program

Enclosure

ed/io/sh

cc: See next page.

cc: (via e-mail)

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DTSC COMMENTS
REVIEW OF SOIL VAPOR AND INDOOR AIR MONITORING REPORT
FOURTH QUARTER 2015
MAGNOLIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
EL CAJON, CALIFORNIA

The following DTSC staff reviewed and provided comments herein to the Soil Vapor and Indoor Air Monitoring Report – Fourth Quarter 2015 (Report). All questions regarding these comments should be directed to the Project Manager.

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GENERAL COMMENTS

1. DTSC concurs with the conclusions that the results of this quarterly sampling event are consistent with historical results.

2. DTSC also concurs with the recommendation to discontinue sampling from the deeper probes for future sampling events because:

    a. most of these deeper probes have not been able to provide samples due to no air flow or water saturated in tubing conditions caused by the shallow groundwater, and

    b. soil vapor data obtained from the deeper probes were not used for risk evaluation purpose. In addition, groundwater data can be provided by groundwater monitoring wells located within the school property, if needed.

3. The report indicates that soil vapor samples could not be collected at the shallow probes (5') of SV-16 and SV-20 due to no-flow and/or water saturation during this sampling event. Based on historical data, elevated concentrations of TCE and 1,1-DCE have been continuously detected in these two locations. Therefore, DTSC recommends these probes be re-installed if samples still cannot be collected during the next sampling event.

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GENERAL COMMENTS

1. No detections of PCE or TCE exceeded DTSC's screening or accelerated response levels.

2. Recent historically high detections of contaminants in rooms 4, 12, 14, 23, K1 and K2 have decreased.

3. Estimated cancer risks and hazard indices due to inhalation of contaminated indoor air are below DTSC's points of departure.

4. HERO concurs with the recommendation to discontinue sampling from deeper (15 foot) soil vapor probes.