



# STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Jim Gibbons, Governor

Allen Biaggi, Director

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Administrator

April 29, 2009

Mr. Mark Paris  
Basic Remediation Company  
875 West Warm Springs Road  
Henderson, NV 89011

Ms. Susan Crowley  
Tronox LLC  
PO Box 55  
Henderson, NV 89009

Mr. Curt Richards  
Olin Corporation  
3855 North Ocoee Street, Suite 200,  
Cleveland, TN 37312

Mr. Joe Kelly  
Montrose Chemical Corp of CA  
600 Ericksen Ave NE, Suite 380  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Mr. Brian Spiller  
Stauffer Management Co LLC  
1800 Concord Pike  
Wilmington, DE 19850-6438

Mr. Craig Wilkinson  
Titanium Metals Corporation  
PO Box 2128  
Henderson, NV 89009

Re. **BMI Plant Sites and Common Areas Projects, Henderson, Nevada**

*Supplement to the Guidance for Evaluating Radionuclide Data for the BMI Plant Sites and Common Areas Projects dated February 6, 2009*

Dear Sirs and Madam:

All of the parties listed above shall be referred to as “the Companies” for the purposes of this letter.

This guidance provides supplemental information associated with the use of preparation methods for radium analysis. On February 6, 2009 NDEP provided the *Guidance for Evaluating Radionuclide Data for the BMI Plant Sites and Common Areas Projects*. Table 4 of that document indicated the Recommended Preparation Methods for Radium-226 and Radium-228 were under further investigation. After additional review of historic data sets and discussions with the laboratories associated with those data it is recommended that all future preparation methods for these two analytes include hydrofluoric acid (complete dissolution). This recommendation is based on the appearance that the majority of the historic data is based on use of these complete dissolution steps for preparation of soil samples for these analytes. In addition, it is believed that this is a conservative recommendation (in that it avoids low bias in the analyses). In particular, both the 2005 Basic Remediation Company and Titanium Metals Corporation Shallow Background Study (analyses completed by STL-St. Louis) and the 2008 Supplemental Background Study (analyses completed by GEL) appear to have used hydrofluoric acid (HF) for preparing samples for Radium-226 and Radium-228 analysis. The 2008 Deep Background study (analyses completed by STL-Richland) apparently did not include HF, but use of the Figure 1 flowchart in the *Guidance for Evaluating Radionuclide Data for the BMI Plant Sites and Common Areas Projects* provides a pathway for comparing data to this historic background dataset.

Please contact me with any questions (tel: 702-486-2850 x247; e-mail: [brakvica@ndep.nv.gov](mailto:brakvica@ndep.nv.gov)).

Sincerely,

Brian A Rakvica, P.E.  
Supervisor, Special Projects Branch  
Bureau of Corrective Actions  
Fax: (702) 486-5733

BAR:s

**CC:** Jim Najima, NDEP, BCA, Carson City  
Marysia Skorska, NDEP, BCA, Las Vegas  
Shannon Harbour, NDEP, BCA, Las Vegas  
Todd Croft, NDEP, BCA, Las Vegas  
Greg Lovato, NDEP, BCA, Carson City  
Barry Conaty, Holland & Hart LLP, 975 F Street, N.W., Suite 900, Washington, D.C. 20004  
Brenda Pohlmann, City of Henderson, PO Box 95050, Henderson, NV 89009  
Mitch Kaplan, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, mail code: WST-5,  
75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3901  
Ebrahim Juma, Clark County DAQEM, PO Box 551741, Las Vegas, NV, 89155-  
1741  
Ranjit Sahu, BRC, 311 North Story Place, Alhambra, CA 91801  
Rick Kellogg, BRC, 875 West Warm Springs, Henderson, NV 89011  
Kirk Stowers, Broadbent & Associates, 8 West Pacific Avenue, Henderson, Nevada 89015  
George Crouse, Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc., 410 Swing Road, Greensboro, NC 27409  
Nicholas Pogoncheff, PES Environmental, Inc., 1682 Novato Blvd., Suite 100, Novato, CA  
94947-7021  
Lee Erickson, Stauffer Management Company LLC, P.O. Box 18890 Golden, CO 80402  
Keith Bailey, Environmental Answers, 3229 Persimmon Creek Drive, Edmond, OK 73013  
Susan Crowley, Crowley Environmental LLC, 366 Esquina Dr., Henderson, NV 89014  
Deni Chambers, Northgate Environmental Management, Inc., 300 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 510, Oakland, CA  
94612  
Mike Skromyda, Tronox LLC, PO Box 55, Henderson, Nevada 89009  
Jeff Gibson, AMPAC, 3883ward Hughes Parkway, Suite 70, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109  
Sally Bilodeau, ENSR, 1220 Avenida Acaso, Camarillo, CA 93012-8727  
Cindi Byrns, Olin Chlor Alkali, PO Box 86, Henderson, Nevada 89009  
Paul Sundberg, Montrose Chemical Corporation, 10733 Wave Crest Court  
Stockton, CA 95209  
Deni Chambers, Northgate Environmental Management, Inc., 300 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite  
510, Oakland, CA 94612  
Robert Infelise, Cox Castle Nicholson, 555 California Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104-1513  
Michael Ford, Bryan Cave, One Renaissance Square, Two North Central Avenue, Suite 2200,  
Phoenix, AZ 85004