



KOCH NITROGEN COMPANY

**CERTIFIED MAIL; RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED:**

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January 14, 2008

Ms. Andrea Stone  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region VII  
Air, RCRA, and Toxics Division  
901 North 5th Street  
Kansas City, KS 66101 (2 copies)

RCAP RECEIVED

JAN 17 2008



**Re: Leakage of Valve at TW-28, Groundwater Monitoring/Recovery System  
Koch Nitrogen Company, Dodge City Nitrogen Plant, Dodge City, Ford County, KS  
EPA I.D. No. KSD044625010**

Dear Ms. Stone:

Under its Hazardous Waste Management Permit (the Permit), Koch Nitrogen Company (KNC), the owner and operator of the Dodge City Nitrogen Plant located near Dodge City, Kansas, operates a groundwater collection and treatment system. This system collects groundwater from areas around the Plant and treats the groundwater to remove hexavalent chromium (Cr+6), which may be present in the groundwater as a result of historic operations at the Facility.

KNC is notifying the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by this letter that the valve for recovery well TW-28 was discovered open on Monday, January 7, 2008. TW-28 is located on the north east-west header, just east of connection point of the Remote Station #2 header. The well had previous leakage from the valve in April 2007, and KNC had been conducting an investigation of the impact on the surrounding soil under the sampling program approved by EPA. The valve had been recently replaced.

KNC management staff were in the vicinity of TW-28 on January 4, 2008, and no leakage was observed from the valve. High north winds during the weekend of January 5 - 6, 2008 blew vegetative debris ("tumbleweeds") into the area around the well. A mass of this debris became hung up on the valve stem and handle, and it appears that this caused the valve to open. The valve was closed immediately upon discovery on January 7. Assuming a conservative worst-case leakage duration (i. e., that the valve opened immediately after management staff left the area on Friday, January 4 and continued in the open position until discovery at about 2 p.m. on January 7), and based on the measured flowrate from the valve following the incident, approximately 12,400 gallons of water could have flowed from TW-28. The most recent groundwater analytical data

from TW-28 indicated a concentration of 0.212 mg/l of total chromium. Thus, the water released over the 69-hour period would have a maximum Cr content of 10 grams (0.02 lb). By comparison, the Cr concentration threshold for aqueous hazardous waste under 40 CFR 261.24, Table 1 is 5.0 mg/l, and the reportable quantity for chromium under 40 CFR Part 302 is 5000 pounds in a 24-hour period.

Due to the small quantity of chromium involved, and the fact that the release consisted of unaltered groundwater, it is not clear whether this incident would constitute a release event required to be reported under Part II, Section C.4 of the KNC Permit. This section requires written notification of any release of hazardous waste or hazardous constituents identified during the course of groundwater monitoring within fifteen days after discovery. Please consider this letter to constitute a Section C.4 notification in the event EPA determines that the event is subject to this requirement.

By this letter, KNC is also notifying the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, in accordance with K.A.R. 28-48-2, of this occurrence. Based on their previous guidance on state reporting requirements, KDHE does not consider this incident to be a reportable release because of the *de minimis* quantity of chromium involved, and the fact that the substance released from the pipe was unaltered local groundwater that had just been removed from the ground.

KNC will prepare an addendum to the previously-approved sampling plan noted above to assess the impact of this most recent incident. If you have any questions or require additional information regarding these matters, please contact AnnieLaurie Burke (620) 227-8631 ext. 350.

In accordance with Section B.2.b of the Permit and 40 CFR 270.11, I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision according to a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Sincerely,  
KOCH NITROGEN COMPANY



Gary J. LeRock  
Plant Manager

cc: Mr. Kent Schierkolk  
Kansas Department of Health & Environment  
Bureau of Environmental Remediation  
1000 SW Jackson  
Topeka, KS 66612-1366

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Kansas Department of Health & Environment  
Bureau of Waste Management  
Hazardous Waste Permits Section  
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 320  
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Hannah Valmont, KMS  
AnnieLaurie Burke, KNC