

April 14, 2022

Sent via email to: Eescdcopy@enrd@usdoj.gov

Mr. David Roskam, Esq.
U.S. Department of Justice
Ben Franklin Station
PO Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Re: J.R. Simplot Rock Springs Consent Decree Quarterly (Periodic) Report
Technical Report No. 46: Caustic Wash No Automation

Dear Mr. Roskam:

Pursuant to the Consent Decree (U.S. v. J.R. Simplot Company), paragraph 42, attached is the Quarterly Periodic Report No. 7 for January through March, 2022.

Also attached is Technical Report No. 46 regarding the caustic wash performed at C Evaporator. In prior correspondence, Simplot stated that the Acid Value Recovery compliance projects associated with the Consent Decree would include an automated system for controlling caustic wash concentration and pH. Further engineering has been completed on the compliance projects since that time and Simplot has determined that automation of the caustic wash concentration is not operationally advisable. This document details the reasoning behind Simplot's decision to not install an automated system for controlling the caustic wash concentration and pH.

Please let me know of any questions you have. I can be reached at (208) 780-7365.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan L. Prouty".

Alan L. Prouty
Vice President, Environmental & Regulatory Affairs

Enclosures (2)

CC: EES Case Management Unit, Environment and Natural Resources Division (by mail).
Linda Jacobson, RCRA Enforcement Branch, Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, U.S. EPA Region 8 (by mail).
Tom Perry, J.R. Simplot Co.



**Consent Decree Quarterly (Periodic) Report
January-March 2022
Periodic Report No. 007**

Rock Springs, WY

April 14, 2022

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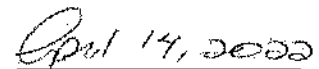
Certification Statement

**RE: January 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022
Quarterly (Periodic) Progress Report No. 007
Rock Springs, Wyoming**

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated 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 of submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.



Alan L. Prouty
Vice President, Environmental & Regulatory Affairs



Date



Introduction

J.R. Simplot Company (Simplot) has prepared this quarterly progress report for the Rock Springs Facility consistent with Section VII, Paragraph 42 on page 34 of the Consent Decree (CD), *U.S. v. J.R. Simplot Company, et al.*, 20-cv-00125-NDF (D. Wyo.). This quarterly progress report presents actions taken to comply with the CD between the dates of January 1, 2022 to March 31, 2022. This is report number 007.

i. Status of Construction or Compliance Measures

No construction was completed during this time period.

The detailed engineering phase of the capital design and construction process which started in October 2021 has continued throughout the quarter. This is the final phase of recovery system engineering. The project team is working to finalize all design criteria and projected to start construction of the first project, which is the replacement of T-104 Sulfuric Acid Tank in the second half of 2022.

The site Sump and Pad Management Program implementation has continued. The fifth quarterly sump inspections under this program were completed in March 2022.

The first annual Sump and Pad Management Program review was completed during the quarter. Updates to the program document were completed and posted for use in the plant on the Rock Springs Bevill document repository.

This is the seventh required quarterly report.

ii. Completion of Milestones

The first Bevill Consent Decree annual refresher training was completed for all Rock Springs based employees in March 2022.

Performance review criteria were finalized during the quarter for use during the first mandated performance criteria review which will be conducted during Q2 2022.

iii. Problems Encountered or Anticipated, Together with Implemented or Proposed Solutions

Sump and pad inspections in 3rd quarter 2021 revealed that the secondary containment of J-6401, D/E Evaporator Sump, was found to contain low pH liquid. This finding again duplicated in both 4th Quarter 2021 and 1st Quarter 2022 inspections. Sampling of this liquid indicates the primary containment is likely breached and allowing sump material to penetrate to the secondary containment. The inspections did not show any indications that the secondary containment is leaking or that any sump material is reaching surrounding soil. This sump has been continually monitored with weekly inspections per the site's sump inspection program since 3rd Quarter 2021

and has been scheduled for full liner replacement. The current schedule for this replacement will be the next plant turnaround which will take place in 2nd Quarter 2022.

iv. Status of Permit Applications

No permit applications to note for this time period.

v. Status of Plans for Closure and Long-Term Care; and Status of Permit Application, as Applicable, for Closure or Long-Term Care

No plans for closure or long-term care.

vi. Operation and Maintenance Difficulties or Concerns

As noted in clarification letters sent to the EPA on February 16th, 2022 and March 8th, 2022 official notifications were made to the EPA and other regulatory agencies that reportable spills had occurred at the facility on February 12th, 2022 and March 3rd, 2022. Subsequent investigation of both incidents found that a reportable quantity was not released to the environment or to the site's phosphogypsum stack. In both incidents the spills were contained in sumps and pads and the majority of all released material was recovered via vacuum truck to the process.

vii. Status of Financial Assurance

Financial assurance in place per requirements in the CD and Appendix 2.

viii. Reports to State Agencies Concerning Matters Enumerated

All reports submitted to state agencies during this period were concerning the same incidents outlined in paragraph vi and paragraph ix of this report.

ix. Description of any Violation of the Requirements of this Consent Decree Reported under Paragraph 41 and an Explanation of the Likely Cause of Such Violation and the Remedial Steps Taken, or to be Taken, to Prevent or Minimize such Violation

As reported in the letter sent to the EPA on February 20, 2022 approximately 850 gallons of mixed 44%/54% phosphoric acid was released via a six (6) inch-hole which developed in the line transporting the material. The released material entered a sump where it was subsequently discharged to the site's phosphogypsum stack.

Investigation determined that the primary cause of the hole in the line was external corrosion of the carbon steel rubber lined pipe from low pH condensation which had dripped from a drain valve on a scrubber fume duct located directly above. Multiple actions were taken to ensure the cause of this event does not reoccur. First, all lines near the one which developed the leak in question were examined for similar corrosion issues and all needed repairs were initiated immediately. Second, a survey of similar areas where overhead drains could cause similar issues was initiated and all necessary changes were initiated as soon as found. Third, the drain valve in question built up low pH condensation because of poor routing of its associated line. Adjustments to the routing of the line were completed to eliminate areas where this low pH material could accumulate. Fourth, an operator training change was initiated for this area designed to give operators additional options when dealing with released material in certain sumps and pads. Operators have now been trained to assess releases to sumps and pads if it is appropriate to shut off the sump pump to stop material from being immediately pumped to the site's phosphogypsum stack. This solution will not always be possible, so operators were trained to make this determination based on the size of the leak, its location, and the complexity and time required to get a release stopped.

x. Identification of any Confirmed "Critical Condition" as Defined and Reported to EPA Pursuant to Appendix 1.D (Critical Conditions and Temporary Measures)

No critical conditions were identified during the previous quarter.

Annual internal reviews of the Phosphogypsum Stack Operations Manual and Interim Stack System Management Plan were completed during the quarter, these updates along with updated water balance information will be submitted to the EPA later during the year.