

Rec'd 2/27/99



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 9

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

February 17, 1999

Mary Ellen Waller
185 Bell Canyon Boulevard
Bell Canyon, CA 91307

S. Hafflam

Re: Partial Results from Bell Canyon Split Sampling

Dear Ms. Waller:

In response to your January 13, 1998 letter, I am providing EPA's partial split sampling results from the Rocketdyne Bell Canyon Sampling. While EPA's laboratory, the National Air and Radiation Environmental Laboratory, has not yet completed all of their analyses, they do expect to finish in another five weeks. I will provide you with a complete set of results when it is available.

Because you also expressed concerns about EPA's level of involvement in the investigation, I am also providing a copy of a letter I sent to Rocketdyne on June 10, 1998. EPA and other the regulatory agencies involved in this sampling had relatively little time to review the workplan, consequently, no agency approved it. However, EPA, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) or the California Department of Health Services (Radiologic Health Branch and Environmental Health Branch) were present during four of the five days that sampling occurred.

In your letter, you also asked whether "the sediment samples of the creek bed were taken at deep enough levels to be of any true merit." EPA's answer is yes. However, you should be aware that EPA considers the type of sampling conducted by Rocketdyne to be a screening level investigation, even though the samples were analysed for an extensive number of contaminants. EPA and other agencies typically use this level of investigation to determine if immediate remediation is necessary, if further investigation is necessary or if no further action is required. While the currently available data in no way suggests that immediate remediation is necessary, EPA will withhold its judgment on the need for further investigation until we have completed our review of all split sampling results and Rocketdyne's Bell Canyon Area Soil Sampling Report, dated October 1998 (a copy of the report is available at the SSFL's three information repositories: the Simi Valley Library, the Urban Archives Center of the Oviatt Library at California State University Northridge and the Platt Branch Library).

02-23-99A10:40 RCVD

001485 RC

If I can be of further assistance to you, please feel free to call me at (415) 744-2070.

Sincerely,



Tom Kelly
Project Manager, Boeing Rocketdyne
Santa Susana Field Laboratory

cc: Dianne Feinstein, Senator (w/o enclosure)
Elton Gallegly, U.S. Representative (w/o enclosure)
Penny Nakashima, DTSC
Clem Welsh, DHS
Steve Hsu, DHS
Wayne Chiou, LARWQCB
Jeffrey Kaminiski Bell Canyon Association
Frank Shillo, Ventura County Supervisor
Jerome Raskin, SSFL Workgroup
Sheldon Plotkin, SSFL Workgroup
Dan Hirsch, SSFL Workgroup
Joe Lyou, SSFL Workgroup
Barbara Johnson, SSFL Workgroup
Steve Lafflam, Boeing, Rocketdyne