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G. TIM ALEXANDER III
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June 26, 1995

Ref: T93-1381

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Mr. William H. Schramm, M.S.
 Geologist, Office of Water Resources
 Department of Environmental Quality
 Ground Water Protection Division
 P. O. Box 82215
 Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2215

Re: Betty D. Blanchard's Farm

Dear Bill:



I am enclosing the test results we got back in recently. I am told they show a groundwater problem from the mercury. I am also enclosing the test results from LSU showing heightened levels in Bayou Choupique sediment samples and in the ditch immediately before it empties into the bayou. Also, methyl mercury I am told tested positive in one of the fish taken from that bayou.

Please let me know what the DEQ believes needs to be done regarding the groundwater situation. Also, could the DEQ advise if it is aware of some easy method to locate the other mercury sites? ARCO's Chuck Roberts stated in his attached deposition that ARCO did not make much use of the well information the DEQ provided to ARCO in doing its very cursory check. I am trying to determine if there is any easier way for the other old mercury sites to be located to cut down on the expenses of locating and cleaning these (15-25) sites. Betty's experts have advised that the only way to locate them is to survey and then go through an expensive and slow process of testing the areas around each old well site. Also, does the DEQ expect to require anything more of ARCO in that regard? I would appreciate an early response from the DEQ.

I am copying Monroe Penrod to keep him abreast of developments in this matter. If he rather than you is the appropriate person to respond to this, I would ask that he do so.

Very truly yours,

G. Tim Alexander, III

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GTA/cml
 cc: Mr. Monroe Penrod (w/enc.)
 Blanchard/deq0626.ltr