



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Rocky
Mountain
Region

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Date: October 17, 2006

Subject: Nemo Work Center EDB Groundwater Treatment System

To: Lou Liebrand, Acting Director of Engineering

The Black Hills NF recently had the pleasure of a visit from Christopher Carlson from the Washington Office who was scoping out an upcoming Watershed Meeting location and was also interested in visiting the Nemo Work Center site, located in the middle of the town of Nemo, SD. The Nemo Work Center is underlain by an ethylene dibromide (EDB) plume in the groundwater, a result of historic insect spraying operations on the Black Hills NF. Region 2, through many years of studying the site and working with excellent contractors, as well as the State of South Dakota, has constructed an EDB treatment system at the site with the primary goal of keeping the plume from migrating further underneath the surrounding private property.

Mr. Carlson is concerned that Region 2 has erred in their location of a drainfield to discharge the treated water and would like us to consider an interim discharge point until further studies can be completed in 2008. The Black Hills NF has made a commitment to the State and the residents of Nemo to address the EDB in their groundwater. Some of these same citizens are tied to a Forest Service water system to supply them water because of the EDB in their water wells. As a result of the site studies, the selected remediation treatment is to pump contaminated groundwater, treat it to remove the EDB, and pump the clean water into a drainfield over the contaminated area to flush EDB through the ground to the wells at the pumping locations. The drainfield location was selected based on data from our contractors and consultation with the State as the best location to achieve flushing of the contamination. Monitoring wells surrounding the contamination plume will continue to be sampled for changes in contamination levels. We are standing by that decision until conclusive evidence is presented that would validate a different course of action. We have turned on the system and are monitoring its operation in close cooperation with the State. We will forward you a copy of our first set of test results in the near future.

Region 2 is willing to continue a dialog with the WO on researching viable alternatives to the treatment operation we have in place. However, in the meantime, the Black Hills will continue to work with our affected publics and our State partners on addressing the EDB issue at Nemo by operating the treatment plant that has been planned and discussed with the public over several years.

/s/ James M. Moe (for)
GLENDA L. WILSON
Director of Engineering



cc: Wilbur Martinez
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