



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

**Richard E. Dunn, Director**

**Land Protection Branch**

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Suite 1054, East Tower  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
404-657-8600

November 14, 2017

Colonial Terminals, Inc.  
c/o Mr. Jim Baker  
Manager, Environmental  
Compliance  
Colonial Terminals, Inc.  
PO Box 576  
Savannah, GA 31402

Exxon Mobil Corp.  
c/o Dave Roberson, P.E  
de maximis, inc.  
2203 Timberloch Place,  
STE #213  
The Woodlands, TX 77380

Estech, Inc.  
c/o Mr. Thomas C. McGowan  
McGrath, North, Mullin & Kratz,  
PC LLO  
1601 Dodge Street STE 3700  
Omaha, NE 68102

Re: Obligations Under the Voluntary Remediation Program  
Colonial Terminals Plant #2, HSI #10098  
Savannah, Chatham County

Dear Messrs. Baker, Roberson, and McGowan:

The Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is responding to your letter of June 14, 2017 and the subsequent conference call of June 22, 2017 in regard to the [Colonial Terminals Plant #2, HSI 10098, in Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia. Specifically, EPD hopes to address Colonial's concerns regarding the requirements of the Georgia Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) Act. EPD's responses to Colonials concerns (paraphrased in italics) are as follows:

Concern #1:

*Colonial would like verification that EPD's statement (in Comment # 2 of EPD's February 2016 letter) that "the site must complete the above noted demonstration to prove that the concentrations leached into the groundwater will not result in an impact to the point of exposure" refers only to the impact of VOCs [volatile organic compounds] on the long-term oxygen demand.*

Response:

VOCs should have the most impact on the long-term oxygen demand; however, there may be other contributing contamination that impacts the testing. It should be noted that EPD is not holding Colonial responsible for the natural oxygen demand of the groundwater which is why a background sample is being required as part of the long-term oxygen demand testing.

Concern #2:

*Colonial believes that Comment #3 of EPD's February 2016 letter, pertaining to surface water sampling, including sampling locations, should have been satisfied during EPD's site visit by Mr. Collins and Dr. Booth on May 4, 2016.*

Response:

EPD concurs that additional testing of the surface water is not warranted at this time.

Concern #3:

*Colonial believes that EPD's Comment #4 of the February 2016 letter, related to the technical impracticability of remediating elevated concentrations of VOC's in the groundwater, has been addressed by Appendix B in our "Responses to EPD comments on the 2014-2015 Voluntary Remediation Program Documents" letter dated February 2, 2017.*

Response:

In its letter of February 2, 2017, Colonial argues that based upon the definition of "Essential Features of Corrective Action" [Rule 391-3-19-.07(4)], it has already met conditions (c) and (d) of the definition. EPD does not concur that either condition (c) or condition (d) has been met. Adverse effects on long-term oxygen demand would fit under conditions (c) and (d) of this section. However, if the long-term oxygen demand testing does not show an adverse impact on the Savannah River, then given the specific circumstances of this site, EPD concurs that additional corrective action for potential free product is not warranted.

Concern #4:

*EPD's letter requested that revised responses be provided "as part of the next scheduled progress report submittal on May 30, 2017." Based on the schedule set forth in the VRP application and subsequent correspondence with EPD, the final progress report for the site was submitted in May 2016. It has been our understanding that the next deliverable for the site is the final CSR.*

Response:

Colonial must still demonstrate that the VOC impacts in groundwater will not adversely affect dissolved oxygen levels in the Savannah River as required under the Rules for Water Quality Control. If Colonial can accomplish the necessary testing and submit a final CSR prior to the scheduled submission date of May 30, 2018, then that is acceptable. Otherwise, Colonial should continue to submit semi-annual progress reports in accordance with Section 12-8-107(b) of the VRP Act. These "reports" may be in the form of a status letter with an updated schedule.

Concern #5:

*Colonial is concerned, that if it performs the long term BOD testing requested by EPD, what would be considered a significant enough impact to the Savannah River that EPD would require action by Colonial.*

Response:

As designated in 391-3-6-.03(6)(f)(i) of the Rules for Water Quality, dissolved oxygen (DO) is one of the specific criteria that should be met when evaluating compliance with in-stream water quality standards; therefore, assessment of DO is appropriate as part of Colonial's participation in the VRP. However, EPD recognizes Colonial's concern, and has determined that an impact of less than one percent of the allowable deficit in the river's BOD will be considered *de minimus*. Therefore, EPD repeats its February 16, 2016 request for long-term oxygen demand testing as follows:

1. Five (5) well locations (MW-11R, MW-12R<sup>1</sup>, MW-16, MW-26, and with MW-08 as a background location) should be used for obtaining and analyzing the long term oxygen demand test (biological oxygen demand, chemical oxygen demand, total organic carbon, ammonia, etc.).

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<sup>1</sup> EPD is requesting MW-12R also be sampled and analyzed since it has the highest VOC concentrations detected in groundwater.

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2. A duplicate sample should be obtained and analyzed from one of the three non-background wells originally requested by EPD (MW-11R, MW-16, or MW-26),
3. All daily measurements and data should be provided to EPD when the samples are analyzed,
4. The estimated volumetric discharge ( $Q$ ,  $\text{ft}^3/\text{s}$ ) of contaminated groundwater to the river should be justified and provided to EPD.
5. Fate and transport modeling results which show the maximum predicted concentration of VOCs at the monitoring wells closest to the river under the proposed conditions of no further remedial action.

Test information can be found on EPD's website at <http://epd.georgia.gov/long-term-bod-test-references>. Prior to implementing any deviations from the standard procedures for the ultimate BOD test, please contact Elizabeth Booth of EPD's Watershed Protection Branch at 404-463-1511. Please provide a progress report/letter, which includes a schedule for completion of the long-term oxygen demand test, by December 20, 2017. If you should have any questions regarding other parts of this correspondence, please contact Tom Brodell at (404) 652-7891.

Sincerely,



Jason Metzger  
Program Manager  
Response and Remediation Program

c: Jeff Margolin, Ramboll Environ <jmargolin@ramboll.com>

File: C042 242-0186 [VRP – Colonial Terminals Plant #2, HSI #10098]

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