

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER NO.87-85

SITE CLEANUP REQUIREMENTS FOR:

AMPEX CORPORATION  
SUNNYVALE, SANTA CLARA COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (hereinafter called the Board) finds that:

1. Ampex Corporation (hereinafter called the discharger) operates a computer disks facility at 728 San Aleso Avenue, in the City of Sunnyvale. The building was constructed in 1968 and utilized as a machine shop until purchase by the discharger in 1973.
2. Subsurface investigations initiated in early 1983 revealed significant levels of organic chemical pollution (initial Concentration was as high as 3.8 ppm of TCE and the current average is 0.200 ppm) in the groundwater beneath the site. There was no underground waste solvent tank onsite. The discharger suggested that improper surface disposal of machine shop degreasing solvents by the former tenant of the building was the cause of groundwater contamination at the subject property. Studies by the discharger show that groundwater beneath the site has been polluted by organic solvents such as Trichloroethylene (TCE), Trichloroethane (TCA), 1,1-Dichloroethylene (DCE) and Trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene.
3. The extent of onsite and offsite plume migration was defined in early 1986. The discharge has installed groundwater extraction system onsite to prevent further contaminant offsite migration. The contamination extends laterally approximately 250 feet downgradient and vertically to a depth of about 25 feet.
4. The Regional Board adopted a revised Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan) on July 21, 1982. The Basin Plan contains water quality objectives and beneficial uses for South San Francisco Bay and contiguous surface and groundwaters.
5. The existing and potential beneficial uses of the groundwater underlying and adjacent to the facility include:
  - a. Industrial process water supply
  - b. Industrial service supply
  - c. Municipal and Domestic supply
  - d. Agricultural supply

6. The discharger has caused or permitted, and threatens to cause or permit waste to be discharged or deposited where it is or probably will be discharged to waters of the State and creates or threatens to create a condition of pollution or nuisance.
7. This action is an order to enforce the laws and regulations administered by the Board. This action is categorically exempt from the provisions of the CEQA pursuant to Section 15321 of the Resources Agency Guidelines.
8. Onsite and offsite interim containment and cleanup measures need to be implemented to alleviate the threat to the environment posed by the continued migration of pollutants and to provide a substantive technical basis for designing and evaluating the effectiveness of final cleanup alternatives.
9. The Board has notified the dischargers and interested agencies and persons of its intent under California Water Code Section 13304 to prescribe Site Cleanup Requirements for the discharge and has provided them with the opportunity for a public hearing and an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.
10. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Section 13304 of the California Water Code, that the discharger shall cleanup and abate the effects described in the above findings as follows:

A. PROHIBITIONS

1. The discharge of wastes or hazardous materials in a manner which will degrade water quality or adversely affect the beneficial uses of the waters of the State is prohibited.
2. Further significant migration of pollutants through subsurface transport to waters of the State is prohibited.
3. Activities associated with the subsurface investigation and cleanup which will cause significant adverse migration of pollutants are prohibited.

B. SPECIFICATIONS

1. The storage, handling, treatment or disposal of polluted soil or groundwater shall not create a nuisance as defined in Section 13050(m) of the California Water Code.

2. The discharger shall conduct monitoring activities as needed to define the current local hydrogeologic conditions, and the lateral and vertical extent of soil and groundwater pollution. Should monitoring results show evidence of plume migration, additional plume characterization may be required.

C. PROVISIONS

1. The discharger shall submit to the Board technical reports on self-monitoring work performed according to a program prescribed by or amended by the Board's Executive Officer.
2. The discharger shall comply with Prohibitions A.1., A.2., and A.3., and Specifications B.1. and B.2. above, in accordance with the following time schedule and tasks:

COMPLETION DATE/TASK:

- a. COMPLETION DATE: September 15, 1987

TASK: Submit a technical report satisfactory to the Executive Officer which evaluates the effectiveness of the hydraulic containment system to prevent any contaminant migration from Ampex's property. Such an evaluation shall include, but need not be limited to, a confirmation of the flow capture zone of the extraction wells, establishment of the cones of depression by field measurements, and presentation of chemical monitoring data. Specific modifications to the system and an implementation time schedule shall be proposed in the event that the hydraulic control system is demonstrated not to be effective in containing and cleaning up the onsite and offsite pollutant plume.

- b. COMPLETION DATE: September 15, 1988

TASK: Submit a technical report acceptable to the Executive Officer containing the results of the remedial investigation; an evaluation of the installed interim remedial measures; a feasibility study evaluating alternative final remedial measures; the recommended measures necessary to achieve final cleanup objectives; and the tasks and time schedule necessary to implement the recommended final remedial measures.

3. The submittal of technical reports evaluating immediate, interim and final remedial measures will include a projection of the cost, effectiveness, benefits, and impact on public health, welfare, and environment of each alternative measure. The remedial investigation and feasibility study shall consider the guidance provided by Subpart F of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (40 CFR Part 300); Section 25356.1 (c) of the California Health and Safety Code; CERCLA guidance documents with reference to Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Studies, and Removal Actions; and the State Water Resources Control Board's Resolution No. 68-16, "Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California".
4. If the discharger is delayed, interrupted or prevented from meeting one or more of the completion dates specified in this Order, the discharger(s) shall promptly notify the Executive Officer. In the event of such delays, the Board may consider modification of the task completion dates established in this Order.
5. Technical reports on compliance with the Prohibitions, Specifications, and Provisions of this Order shall be submitted quarterly to the Board commencing on September 15, 1987. On a quarterly basis thereafter, these reports shall consist of a brief letter report that, (1) summarizes work completed since submittal of the previous report, and work projected to be completed by the time of the next report, (2) identifies any obstacles which may threaten compliance with the schedule of this Order and what actions are being taken to overcome these obstacles, and (3) includes, in the event of non-compliance with Provisions this Order, written notification which clarifies the reasons for non-compliance and which proposes specific measures and a schedule to achieve compliance. This written notification shall identify work not completed that was projected for completion, and shall identify the impact of non-compliance on achieving compliance with the remaining requirements of this Order.
6. On a quarterly basis, commencing with on September 15, 1987, the technical report shall include, but need not be limited to, updated water table and piezometric surface contour maps, pollution concentration contour maps for all affected water bearing zones, cross-sectional geological maps describing the hydrogeological setting of the site, and appropriately scaled and detailed base maps showing the location of all monitoring wells and extraction wells, and identifying adjacent facilities and structures.

7. All hydrogeological plans, specifications, reports, and documents shall be signed by or stamped with the seal of a registered geologist, engineering geologist or professional engineer.
8. All samples shall be analyzed by State certified laboratories or laboratories accepted by the Board using approved EPA methods for the type of analysis to be performed. All laboratories shall maintain quality assurance/quality control records for Board review.
9. The discharger(s) shall maintain in good working order, and operate, as efficiently as possible, any facility or control system installed to achieve compliance with the requirements of this Order.
10. Copies of all correspondence, reports, and documents pertaining to compliance with the Prohibitions, Specifications, and Provisions of this Order, shall be provided to the following agencies:
  - a. Santa Clara Valley Water District
  - b. Santa Clara County Health Department
  - c. City of Santa Clara and City of Sunnyvale
  - d. State Department of Health Services/TSCD

The Executive Officer may additionally require copies of correspondence, reports and documents pertaining to compliance with the Prohibitions, Specifications, and Provisions of this Order to be provided to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, and to a local repository for public use.

11. The discharger(s) shall permit the Board or its authorized representative, in accordance with Section 13267(c) of the California Water Code:
  - a. Entry upon premises in which any pollution sources exist, or may potentially exist, or in which any required records are kept, which are relevant to this Order.
  - b. Access to copy any records required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this Order.
  - c. Inspection of any monitoring equipment or methodology implemented in response to this Order.
  - d. Sampling of any groundwater or soil which is accessible, or may become accessible, as part of any investigation or remedial action program undertaken by the discharger.

12. The discharger(s) shall file a report on any changes in site occupancy and ownership associated with the facility described in this Order.
13. If any hazardous substance is discharged in or on any Waters of the State, or discharged and deposited where it is, or probably will be discharged in or on any Waters of the State, the discharger shall report such a discharge to this Regional Board, at (415) 464-1255 on weekdays during officer hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and to the Office of Emergency Services at (800) 852-7550 during non-office hours. A written report shall be filed with the Regional within five (5) working days and shall contain information relative to: the nature of waste or pollutant, quantity involved, duration of incident, cause of spill, Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC) in effect, if any, estimated size of affected area, nature of effects, corrective measures that have been taken or planned, and a schedule of these activities, and persons notified.
14. The Board will review this Order periodically and may revise the requirements when necessary.

I, Roger B. James, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on July 15, 1987.

  
Roger B. James  
Executive Officer