



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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**Ursula Kramer, P.E.
Director**

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September 23, 2009

Mr. Raul Ochoa
Assistant Superintendent of Operations
and Facilities Planning
Sunnyside Unified School District
Administrative Office
2238 E. Ginter Road
Tucson, AZ 85706-5806

RE: Pima County DEQ July 2009 Beryllium Monitoring Data

Dear Mr. Ochoa:

Attached is the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality's (PDEQ) Beryllium Monitoring Network sampling results from July 2009. This report has the first detectable beryllium which occurred on July 22, 2009 at the SUSD Transportation Building. PDEQ contacted Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (PCRWRD) Laboratory which has verified a sample result of 0.35 ng/m³. The PCRWRD Laboratory ran a second sample of the monitoring filter which also verified the same result. PDEQ is working with the Sonora Environmental Research Institute and Dr. Eric Betterton at the University of Arizona to evaluate the beryllium monitoring data.

Prior to July 22, 2009, beryllium monitoring data had been consistently below the detectable level of 0.265 ng/m³. On July 22, the Tucson region experienced an exceptional dust event that originated near Casa Grande. As the dust moved into the Tucson area, PDEQ issued an air quality advisory for dust/particulate matter. PDEQ recorded the highest value ever for dust that day and several monitors exceeded the federal health standard of 150 µg/m³. The Transportation Building site also recorded high values of dust with a reading of 149.7 µg/m³ (normal values are between 50-70 µg/m³) on July 22 (please see attached graph).

In addition to the monitoring data, PDEQ will also be evaluating wind speed and direction data for July 22. As beryllium is a natural occurring constituent in soil, PDEQ is evaluating any relationship the exceptional dust event had with regards to the beryllium detection as both occurred on the same day.

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PDEQ is also evaluating any relationship the beryllium result has with regards to operations at Brush Ceramic Products. To determine the nature of operations that were occurring at the Brush facility on July 22, PDEQ is formally requesting operation, maintenance, and production information for that date. Brush Ceramic Products must keep logs of these activities as a requirement of their PDEQ air quality permit.

PDEQ will continue efforts to determine the nature of the elevated beryllium level on July 22 and will continue to work with the Sonora Environmental Research Institute and Dr. Eric Betterton at the University of Arizona to evaluate all the data surrounding this result. Any future actions and new information will be shared with you and the Sunnyside Unified School District.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Beth Gorman, Senior Program Manager for Communications, at 740-3343 or me at 740-3332.

Sincerely,



Richard Grimaldi
Deputy Director for EQ Division, PDEQ

RG/vlb

Enclosure SUSD Transportation Building monitoring PM₁₀ data from July 2009
Beryllium Monitoring Network sampling results from July 2009.

cc: Ursula Kramer, P.E., Director, PDEQ
 Jeff Prevatt, Ph.D., Manager, Compliance and Regulatory Affairs Office, RWRD
 Beth Gorman, Sr. Program Manager for Communications, PDEQ
 Ann Marie Wolf, Sonoran Environmental Research Institute
 Dr. Eric Betterton, University of Arizona

Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department
 Compliance and Regulatory Affairs Office
 7101 N. Casa Grande Highway

| Sample Location | Sample ID | Parameter | Sample Date | Analysis Method | Analysis Date | | Analysis Value | Units | PQL |
|------------------------|------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|---|----------------|-------------------|-------|
| Chaparral M.S. | 2009081242 | Beryllium | 7/3/2009 | IO-3.5 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Transportation Bldg. | 2009081243 | Beryllium | 7/4/2009 | IO-3.5 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Sunnyside H.S. | 2009081244 | Beryllium | 7/5/2009 | IO-3.5 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Ocotillo Elementary #1 | 2009081245 | Beryllium | 7/6/2009 | IO-3.5 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Ocotillo Elementary #2 | 2009081246 | Beryllium | 7/6/2009 | IO-3.5 | 8/21/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Los Amigos Elementary | 2009081247 | Beryllium | 7/7/2009 | IO-3.5 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Los Ninos Elementary | 2009081248 | Beryllium | 7/8/2009 | IO-3.5 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Chaparral M.S. | 2009081249 | Beryllium | 7/9/2009 | IO-3.5 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Transportation Bldg. | 2009081250 | Beryllium | 7/10/2009 | IO-3.5 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Sunnyside H.S. | 2009081251 | Beryllium | 7/11/2009 | IO-3.4 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Ocotillo Elementary #1 | 2009081252 | Beryllium | 7/12/2009 | IO-3.4 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Ocotillo Elementary #2 | 2009081253 | Beryllium | 7/12/2009 | IO-3.4 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Los Amigos Elementary | 2009081254 | Beryllium | 7/13/2009 | IO-3.4 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Los Ninos Elementary | 2009081255 | Beryllium | 7/14/2009 | IO-3.4 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Chaparral M.S. | 2009081256 | Beryllium | 7/15/2009 | IO-3.4 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Transportation Bldg. | 2009081257 | Beryllium | 7/16/2009 | IO-3.4 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Sunnyside H.S. | 2009081258 | Beryllium | 7/17/2009 | IO-3.4 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Ocotillo Elementary #1 | 2009081259 | Beryllium | 7/18/2009 | IO-3.4 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Ocotillo Elementary #2 | 2009081260 | Beryllium | 7/18/2009 | IO-3.4 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Los Amigos Elementary | 2009081261 | Beryllium | 7/19/2009 | IO-3.4 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Los Ninos Elementary | 2009081262 | Beryllium | 7/20/2009 | IO-3.4 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Chaparral M.S. | 2009081263 | Beryllium | 7/21/2009 | IO-3.4 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Transportation Bldg. | 2009081264 | Beryllium | 7/22/2009 | IO-3.4 | 9/10/2009 | | 0.35 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Sunnyside H.S. | 2009081265 | Beryllium | 7/23/2009 | IO-3.4 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Ocotillo Elementary #1 | 2009081266 | Beryllium | 7/24/2009 | IO-3.4 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Ocotillo Elementary #2 | 2009081267 | Beryllium | 7/24/2009 | IO-3.4 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Los Amigos Elementary | 2009081268 | Beryllium | 7/25/2009 | IO-3.4 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Los Ninos Elementary | 2009081269 | Beryllium | 7/26/2009 | IO-3.4 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Chaparral M.S. | 2009081270 | Beryllium | 7/27/2009 | IO-3.4 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Transportation Bldg. | 2009081271 | Beryllium | 7/28/2009 | IO-3.4 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Sunnyside H.S. | 2009081272 | Beryllium | 7/29/2009 | IO-3.4 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Ocotillo Elementary #2 | 2009081273 | Beryllium | 7/30/2009 | IO-3.4 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |
| Los Amigos Elementary | 2009071274 | Beryllium | 7/31/2009 | IO-3.4 | 8/28/2009 | < | 0.265 | ng/m ³ | 0.265 |

Transportation Building Dust/PM10 Data

