

December 7, 2012

Mr. James Sher, P.E.
Project Manager
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

**Re: Texas Custodial Trust
Former ASARCO Smelter Site, El Paso, Texas**

**Subject: East Borrow Source Environmental Sampling Procedures for Interim Channel
Backfill and East Category I Landfill Removal Plan**

Dear Mr. Sher:

Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. is pleased to present this letter that describes field procedures that Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. will use to document that the native material from the East Borrow Source are appropriate for use in the Interim Channel as structural backfill. The procedures and overall approach for the East Borrow Source is consistent with the sampling and analysis approach previously described in our Interim Channel Letter dated November 29, 2011. Since the former East Category I Landfill is near the East Borrow Source we have included it here so that proper precautions and procedures are used to assure the materials remain separate and only clean soils are placed in the Interim Channel.

As part of the ongoing construction and remediation activities in Parker Brothers Arroyo (PBA), 30,000 to 40,000 cubic yards of nonimpacted backfill material is required in order to complete the Interim Channel foundation. To facilitate this and future backfill needs, Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. will permit the East Borrow Source (see Figure 1 and Permit Drawings) for a total of 275,000 cubic yards of native material.

The East Borrow Area is needed now to complete the Interim Channel. To assure that only clean material is excavated, the Category I material will be field located via survey, and then test pitted along the perimeter on 25 foot centers to find the interface of Category I and native material. We will then sample 5 feet out-board of the interface and analyze for chemicals of concern (COC) and analytes of interest (AOIs) to confirm clean materials have been located. Step-out samples will be taken until clean soils are located horizontally. Once the boundary has been found, a surface water management berm will be placed to divert potential storm water around the area. In addition, robust markers, installed at a height such that operators can see them from heavy equipment, with appropriate flagging will be installed and maintained to demark this boundary.



Erosion control measures will be used at all times in the excavation areas that comply with the approved site Surface Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

Based on existing environmental data collected around the East Borrow Source, concentrations of metals in native material in the top several inches may be elevated due to aerial deposition from either stack emissions or potentially wind-blown ores and concentrates. Concentrations of metals in the Category I excavation area are elevated due to the presence of nonnative materials associated with smelter operations (see Table 1). Nonnative materials will not be used for backfill in the Interim Channel.

In order to document that these potentially impacted surface soils are not placed in the Interim Channel backfill, Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. is proposing the following procedures to document the metals concentrations in native soil from the East Borrow Source. Materials will be excavated based on verification sampling or prior data that shows the material meets the TRRP Total Soil Combined residential standards.

- Approximately 1 foot of native material from the active area of excavation will be removed and stockpiled onsite adjacent to the phase I borrow excavation (see borrow area grading plan in Permit Drawings).
- Composite verification samples will be prepared from samples taken within a 50 by 50 foot grid overlay. Samples will be taken at five equally spaced locations within each 50 by 50 foot grid (with one at the center and four taken at the midpoint of a diagonal line drawn from the grid center towards each corner) which will then be combined at the laboratory to make one composite sample for each grid.
- The samples will be shipped to an analytical laboratory for analysis with a 24-hour turnaround time and analyzed for the site COCs and AOIs.
- If the results of the laboratory testing indicate the material exceeds the TRRP Total Soil Combined residential standards, an additional 3 to 12 inch thick layer will be removed and a new set of verification samples will be collected. Any additional excavated material will be stockpiled onsite.
- If the results of the laboratory testing indicate the native material is not impacted, then the material will be used for Interim Channel backfill.
- If any nonnative material is encountered in the borrow source, that is outside of the Category I excavation area, excavation in that area will stop to assess the soil characteristics in the area.

The Permit Drawings (see attached) also include the planned excavation of the East Category I landfill which is approximately 54,000 cubic yards of nonnative material. This area is shown in Figure 1 with sampling data provided in Table 1. The footprint will be adjusted from the findings of the test pits. This area will not be excavated until Cell 4 has been completed. During





excavation, large concrete and inert material will be separated from the fill and managed as Category II material on the Plant Site. All Category I material will be placed in Cell 4. Confirmation samples will be taken once the base of the excavation has been reached. To accomplish this, a 50 by 50 foot grid overlay will be established. Samples will be taken at five equally spaced locations within each 50 by 50 foot grid (with one at the center and four taken at the midpoint of a diagonal line drawn from the grid center towards each corner). These five samples will then be shipped to the laboratory to be combined to make one composite sample for each grid and then analyzed for COCs and AOIs. If the results of the laboratory testing indicate the remaining soils exceed the TRRP Total Soil Combined residential standards, additional material will be removed until composite samples show that the standard has been met.

Results of the environmental sampling will be included in the construction documentation reports for the Interim Channel and East Category I Landfill, respectively.

We request your approval to proceed with these procedures and activities. Please let us know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Very truly yours,

MALCOLM PIRNIE, INC.

Scott M. Brown, P.E.
Project Manager

cc: Roberto Puga (Project Navigator)
Lorinda Gardner (TCEQ Region 6)
Alicia Fogg, Corey Zorn, Karina Correa

Attachments:

Table 1: Soil Analytical Data – Borehole Locations
Figure 1: East Property Excavation Areas
Drawings: Borrow Area Grading and Drainage Plan

