



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

DEC 4 2012

Don Wiggins  
Walter Coke, Inc.  
3500 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Birmingham, Alabama 35207

Re: Approval of Groundwater Interim Measures Plans and Commencement of Work  
RCRA 3008(h) Administrative Order on Consent, Docket No. RCRA-04-2012-4255  
Walter Coke, Inc., Birmingham, AL  
AL 000 828 848

Dear Mr. Wiggins:

This letter is in response to Walter Coke (WC) submittals to EPA for three Groundwater Interim Measures (GW IM) plans pursuant to the September 2012 RCRA 3008(h) Consent Order, and according to the final May 2012 Groundwater Interim Measures Work Plan (GW IM Work Plan) for the Former Chemical Plant (FCP). These final plans, prepared by your consultant, Terracon Consultants, Inc., have been revised to address EPA comments on draft versions of the plans and include:

- 1) **Interim Measures Groundwater Sampling and Analysis Plan (Revision 1.0, dated October 9, 2012),**
- 2) **Vapor Intrusion Characterization Work Plan (Revision 1.0, dated November 2, 2012), and**
- 3) **Site-Specific Health and Safety Plan (Revision 1.0, dated November 9, 2012).**

The EPA has reviewed these final reports and has determined that they meet the objectives of the May 2012 GW IM Work Plan and are consistent with subsequent discussions between the EPA and Walter Coke. EPA, therefore, **approves these plans** for implementation.

In addition, the September 24, 2012 RCRA 3008(h) Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) requires that actions taken under this AOC begin within 15 days of receipt of EPA approval. Also, the May 2012 GW IM Work Plan designates the specific compliance schedule for each task of the interim measure. As such, the **enclosed schedule is approved** for the GW IM implementation.

Additionally, as you are aware, the quarterly data evaluation of air data for the Vapor Intrusion Characterization Study is for the purposes of determining if additional sampling or other follow-up actions are needed. The EPA will utilize the most current Regional Screening Levels (RSLs) for indoor air (<http://epa-prgs.ornl.gov/chemicals/index.shtml>) in this determination: For evaluation of indoor air or crawlspace data, the indoor air RSLs will be used; for evaluation of soil vapor data, the indoor air RSL divided by 0.1 will be used. The EPA will consider other pertinent information (e.g., groundwater

monitoring data, etc.) in this determination as well. At any time, if an immediate concern for human health is identified, the EPA will direct Walter Coke to take appropriate actions in a timely manner.

In accordance with Section XIX of the RCRA Administrative Order on Consent, Walter Coke shall begin implementation of the approved plans within fifteen (15) calendar days of receipt of this letter. Non-compliance with these approved plans or the approved schedule of implementation shall constitute noncompliance with the Order, and the provisions of Section XXVIII may be enforced by the EPA.

Thank you for your cooperation and diligence during the development of the plans referenced above. We would like to emphasize that the quality and timeliness of the work performed under these plans is of paramount priority to the EPA, and we appreciate the timely efforts you have made to move this process forward. Please contact Meredith Anderson, RCRA Corrective Action Project Coordinator, at 404-562-8608 or at [anderson.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:anderson.meredith@epa.gov), if you have any questions about the information on this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Karen Knight", with a stylized flourish at the end.

D. Karen Knight, CHMM, Chief  
Corrective Action Section  
RCRA Division

Enclosure (1)

cc: Metz Duites, ADEM  
Dan Grucza, Walter Coke  
Terry Rippstein, Terracon

## **ENCLOSURE 1**

### **Compliance Schedule for Groundwater Interim Measures at the FCP**

#### **I. Groundwater Containment:**

- Commencement of Groundwater Containment activities – 15 calendar days of receipt of this letter
- Construction of Containment System (installation of 6 containment wells and MW-90) – within 30 calendar days of receipt of this letter
- Pre-Operational Groundwater Monitoring:
  - Monthly water level measurements at the 18 wells listed in Table 2-1 of the approved GW IM SAP – within 45 calendar days of receipt of this letter (duration - 3 months)
  - Groundwater sampling of 18 wells listed in Table 2-1 – within 45 calendar days of receipt of this letter
  - Transducer Study – 1 week prior to system start-up (duration - 1 month past system start-up)
- Post-Operational Groundwater Monitoring:
  - Water level measurements at 18 wells listed in Table 2-1 – monthly for 6 months, then quarterly for remainder of year and at end of year
  - Groundwater sampling of 16 shallow wells listed in Table 2-1 and 1 combined flow from containment wells – quarterly for 1 year and at end of year
  - Groundwater sampling of 2 deep wells listed in Table 2-1 – at end of year
  - Mass removal and total volume extracted calculations – quarterly for 1 year and at end of year
- Annual groundwater containment system effectiveness evaluation and determination of continued groundwater monitoring – at end of 1 year
- Progress Reports:
  - Groundwater Containment Construction Progress Reports and Quarterly Groundwater Monitoring Reports according to the schedule contained in the May 2012 GW IM WP

## **II. Vapor Intrusion Characterization:**

- Commencement of Vapor Intrusion Characterization activities - 15 calendar days of receipt of this letter
- Send access agreements to residents involved in the study – within 15 calendar days of receipt of this letter
- Request for EPA assistance with access to private property – 45 calendar days of receipt of this letter
- Soil vapor port installation – within 30 calendar days of receipt of property access
- Quarterly soil vapor and crawlspace sampling - within 30 calendar days of soil vapor port installation, with subsequent quarterly sampling within 90 days of previous sampling
- Quarterly submittal of air sampling data – within 7 calendar days of data validation
- Quarterly data evaluation meetings with EPA and identification of follow-up actions, if any – within 15 calendar days of EPA receipt of validated data
- Implementation of follow-up actions, if any, identified in the quarterly data evaluation meetings – in accordance with the schedule developed during the quarterly evaluations
- Vapor Intrusion Characterization Report – within 60 days of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter sampling