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Committee for a Better Arvin
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Summary of B&B Site Investigation/Remediation

This email provides a brief summary of the current status of investigation/remediation at the Brown & Bryan Superfund site.

As I predicted last summer, there has been a period of time during which there has been limited generation of regulatory agency reports for our review. Based on US EPA new reports, there have been no updated reports on replacing the Arvin city well, construction of A-zone extraction wells, or operation of extraction wells to remove pollutants from the A zone; there has been no dissemination of additional information on monitored natural attenuation. I assume that work in these areas is occurring but not yet resulting in reports that we can review for CBA.

Based on the information provided in the recent DTSC report covering the renewal of the contract for site cap inspection/repair, I am disappointed to find that DTSC did not increase the rate of inspection and repair of the site cap; it is still only conducting an inspection once a year. What this means is that water that is getting into the A-zone through the cap is transporting pollutants to the B-zone. It appears, however, that the recent climate with limited rainfall and the apparent limited size of cap cracks act to limit the enhanced migration of pollutants in the A-zone to the B-zone from which they can be transported off-site.

The low level of activity at the site that involves us means that we still have a few thousand dollars in our TAG budget, but that budget must last until the TAG is renewed next October. One of the issues that I need to address with Brent Newell is the development of an application for TAG renewal. As we have discussed, there is need for substantial TAG technical adviser activity in:

- reviewing A-zone removal of pollutants,
- establishing a more comprehensive natural attenuation monitoring well array,
- reviewing data, and
- replacement of the City well.

If you have questions on these issues, please contact me.

G. Fred Lee, CBA TAG Advisor