UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4

61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

November 4, 2010

4SD-SSB

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Potable Water Data Evaluation, Tronox (Kerr-McGee) Site, Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi

FROM: Tim Frederick, Life Scientist
Technical Services Section
Superfund Division

TO: Steve Spurlin, On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Section
Superfund Division

THRU: Glenn Adams, Chief for
Technical Services Section
Superfund Division

Per your request, TSS has reviewed the potable water data collected and reported in the Memorandum from Janet Muse to Art Masters dated June 11, 2010 (semi-volatile organic compound data) and the Memorandum from Art Masters to Russ McLean dated August 13, 2010 (dioxin data). The purpose of this review was to address local concerns that trace levels of contaminants may be presenting a risk to residents.

Semi-Volatile Organic Compound (SVOC) Data (June 11, 2010 Memorandum)

Data for the three potable water samples collected include: Sample TN02W (page 11 of 88), Sample TN13W (page 47 of 38), and TN14W (page 53 of 38). All data presented in the memo has undergone review by the Quality Assurance Section of the Region 4 Science and Ecosystem Support Division in Athens, GA.

The final data show that in each of the three potable well samples, the concentration for each of the SVOCs analyzed by the method is flagged with a "U" data qualifier. The U data qualifier is used to signify that "the analyte was not detected at or above the reporting limit" (Page 4 of 88). The reporting limit is the lowest amount of an analyte in a sample that can be quantitatively

determined with stated, acceptable precision and accuracy under the analytical conditions of the method.

Dioxin Data (August 13, 2010 Memorandum)

Data for the three potable water samples collected include: Sample TN02W (page 10 of 38), Sample TN13W (page 33 of 38), and TN14W (page 36 of 38). All data presented in the memo has undergone review by the Quality Assurance Section of the Region 4 Science and Ecosystem Support Division in Athens, GA. Details of the data review are presented on pages 2-5 of 38 in the Memo.

The final data show that in each of the three potable well samples, the concentration for each of the dioxin congeners is flagged with a "U" data qualifier. The U data qualifier is used to signify that "the analyte was not detected at or above the reporting limit" (Page 5 of 38).

Risk Evaluation

Since there were no detected concentrations for any of the chemicals analyzed for the potable well samples, no risks associated with consumption of the potable water represented by these samples can be quantified.

If you have any questions regarding this review, you can contact me at 404-562-8598 or frederick.tim@epa.gov.