September 7, 2024

Tony Haag
Strongbox Water Solutions LLC
8060 CR 725N
Brownsburg, Indiana 46112

RE: Request for Additional Information, Produced Water Pilot Project Notice of Intent, Strongbox Water Solutions LLC

Dear Tony Haag,

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received your Notice of Intent (NOI) for a produced water pilot project on July 11, 2024, along with a response to our Request for Additional Information (RAI) on August 9, 2024. The project, to be conducted at the Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research Facility (BGNDRF) in Alamogordo, NM, proposes to treat produced water using a mobile flash evaporation system that vaporizes excess water from industrial wastewater, leachate, and produced water. Strongbox Water Solutions LLC intends for this project to determine the amount of usable water that can be collected from the vapor.

NMED has reviewed both the NOI and the RAI response in accordance with the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission Regulations (20.6.2 NMAC). Unfortunately, the information provided is insufficient, and the RAI response did not address all the questions raised in our previous request.

For your reference, information about all active or completed produced water pilot projects can be found at https://www.env.nm.gov/new-mexico-produced-water/pilot-projects/. A good example of a well-prepared NOI can be found at https://www.env.nm.gov/new-mexico-produced-water/wp-content/uploads/sites/30/2023/10/Final-Revised-SolMem-NOI-2023-09-14.pdf. This example, from SolMem, pertains to a system also located at BGNDRF and may serve as a useful guide for revising your NOI:

To proceed with our evaluation, please address the following items:

1. Correct the spelling of "BGNDRF" (it was incorrectly spelled as "BGNDFR" in the original NOI).
2. Provide a clear answer regarding the research focus as identified in question 3 of the NOI form.
3. Clarify the proposed use of the treated produced water as identified in question 4 of the NOI form.
4. Provide an aerial map showing the location of your testing system within the BGNDRF facility as identified in question 7 of the NOI form.

5. Include a copy of the BGNDRF Guidelines or reproduce the guidelines for signage and security as identified in questions 9 and 10 of the NOI form.
6. List the sources of produced water, describe in detail the plan for transporting produced water to and from the site, and outline onsite storage safety methods as identified in question 12 of the NOI form.
7. Provide the disposal plan for expected by-products, waste products, and other potentially contaminated materials as identified in question 13 of the NOI form.
8. List the expected contaminants and their concentrations in the untreated and treated produced water as identified in question 14 of the NOI form.
9. Provide a detailed and clear description of all components involved in the produced water processing, treatment, and storage, as illustrated in the drawing attached to the NMED NOI, labeled "Strongbox Solutions/ BGNDRF Vapor Reclaim Testing Arrangement" and as identified in question 15 of the NOI form.
10. Describe the disposal plan for all produced water, treated produced water, secondary waste streams, permeate, or brine, as identified in question 16 of the NOI form.
11. Incorporate all information into a single PDF, and submit a new notarized document.

Please submit the requested information within 30 days of the date of this letter, by October 9, 2024. NMED appreciates your cooperation. If you have any questions, you may contact Jason Herman, Program manager at 575-649-3871 or by email at Jason.herman@env.nm.gov.

Sincerely,

Justin Ball Digitally signed by Justin Ball
Date: 2024.09.07 10:27:59 -06'00'

Justin D. Ball
Ground Water Quality Bureau Chief

Cc: John Rhoderick, Director, Water Protection Division, NMED
Kathryn Becker, Tribal Liaison, NMED
Andrew Knight, Assistant General Counsel, NMED
Justin Ball, Chief, Ground Water Quality Bureau, NMED
Jason Herman, Program Manager, Pollution Prevention Section, Ground Water Quality Bureau, NMED
Susan Lucas Kamat, Program Manager, Point Source Regulation Section, Surface Water Quality Bureau, NMED
Gerasimos Razatos, Acting Director, Oil Conservation Division, EMNRD
Jim Griswold, Special Projects Manager, Oil Conservation Division, EMNRD
Patricia Sullivan, Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives, New Mexico Produced Water Research Consortium, NMSU
Mike Hightower, Program Director, New Mexico Produced Water Research Consortium, NMSU