TOWER PETROLEUM CORPORATION

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Jeanne Pascal, Esq.
Northwest District Debarment Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Seattle, Washington

May 8, 2004

Re: Conversation with [redacted] Alaska

Dear Ms. Pascal,

This letter is being sent at your request relating to my telephone conversation with [redacted] in April, 2004.

As you are aware, Mr. [redacted] was previously employed by British Petroleum as a corrosion control supervisor for their production operations on the North Slope of Alaska. He has also had considerable additional experience and credentials as a corrosion control expert. I am somewhat familiar with the Prudhoe Bay operations from my previous experience in Alaska, both in the oil industry and in government. Therefore, I felt I was in a position to understand the concerns expressed by Mr. [redacted].

First, Mr. [redacted] impressed me with the scope of his knowledge as it relates to the corrosion control applications necessary for the production operations at Prudhoe Bay and to what was actually being implemented (or neglected) by the local management of British Petroleum. During our hour and a half conversation, I found him to be sincere and very concerned for the welfare of the workers at Prudhoe Bay as well as for the negative effect any major incident would have on the future of the ANWR development. In over fifty years of experience in the oil industry, I found him to be one of the most knowledgeable corrosion experts to whom I have talked. He definitely is not someone with an "ax to grind" In fact, he made it very clear, he is currently very successful with his corrosion control business and has no further interest in working for B.P.

Mr. [redacted] advised me that proper corrosion control, detection, monitoring, and repair procedures were often being ignored in favor of "cost saving". He also said necessary (in his opinion) repairs were being delayed beyond the projected critical time for piping and associated equipment to the extent it has now become a hazard to the safety of workers and that procedures were being used to hide these problems from higher management. I am sure you are aware that corrosion detection and control is one of the major problems facing all oil and gas production operations. Pitting of the flow lines and associated piping causes thinning of the walls reducing the allowable internal operating pressure, otherwise the resulting burst pipe and sudden release of hydrocarbons to the surrounding atmosphere, indoor or outdoor, can cause serious harm to personnel and the environment. This can range from a minor oil spill problem in low-pressure "stripper" wells, to a very serious problem at Prudhoe Bay where much higher pressures exist.

47

It is Mr. [redacted] opinion, and I concur, the upper management of British Petroleum consists of men and women of integrity who would never deliberately endanger employees to enhance the "bottom line". This type of unconscionable managerial behavior would never be sanctioned by the upper management in London. Therefore, it must be assumed they are unaware of the problems being created resulting from the decisions being made by some lower-level managers in Alaska.

I hope this serves to clarify, at least in part, the issue of B.P. corrosion control on the North Slope of Alaska.

Yours Truly,

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48