



INTERNATIONAL SALT COMPANY

A PART OF AKZONOB INC

Bruce - F.G.D.

WATKINS GLEN REFINERY
Watkins Glen, New York 14891
607/535-2721

February 27, 1975

New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation
P. O. Box 57
Avon, New York 14414

Attention: Mr. Dennis Sugumele

Dear Mr. Sugumele:

Per your request I have prepared the following brief description of the oil spill incident of February 17, 1975.

Oil was first detected in Seneca Lake at approximately 2:30 p.m. by Mr. Angelo Pangallo, an employee of International Salt Company, who was operating equipment in the brinefield at that time. He reported the observed oil to the Production Foreman on duty and myself immediately.

Mr. Pfiffer, Production Foreman, immediately went to investigate and within 45 minutes to 1 hour determined that the oil was entering the lake via a brinefield runoff creek and determined the source of the oil. The oil was spraying from a guage line on the wellhead of #49 Well. This Well is equipped with 3 pipes, an 8 5/8" tubing which has inside it a 5 1/2" tubing which in turn contains a 2 7/8" tubing. This Well operates as a trump well with water injection through the annulus between the 5 1/2" and 2 7/8" tubing and brine withdrawal from the 2 7/8" tubing. **The outer annulus contains #2 fuel oil. This oil was injected into the well and serves as a pad to protect the cavity from vertical dissolving.** The 8 5/8" casing does not extend as deep as the other two tubings into the cavity. Due to the difference in specific gravities of the liquids the oil is in the outer annulus at the surface. The only connection to this annulus is a 1/2" nipple, valve and pressure guage. The spill occurred when the piping between the valve and the wellhead bent due to an ice build-up and distorted the pipe in such a manner as to allow a spray of oil to discharge.

When the source of the leak was discovered, we immediately contacted a local contractor to trench the area in an attempt to collect the oil and made plans to place straw in the runoff streams to absorb as much of the oil as possible. I

RECEIVED

FEB 28 1975

PURE WATERS

Continuation of Letter to:

INTERNATIONAL SALT COMPANY

New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation

Attention: Mr. Dennis Sugumele

called Mr. Lawton, Local Conservation Officer, at 3:40 p.m. and told him of the problem. He came to investigate immediately and assisted plant personnel in the placing of straw at various places in the brinefield. The faulty pipe was replaced at approximately 5:00 p.m. and the leak stopped.

We added more straw during the evening and dug a second trench to intercept the runoff water before it entered the creek which flows east into Seneca Lake.

At approximately 7:00 p.m., Mr. Finster of the D. E. C. and Mr. Baldwin of E. P. A. investigated the spill.

The following morning we changed straw where necessary and pumped the oily water from both pits into 55 gallon drums. We have since removed all the oil laden straw from the creeks and removed the oily water from the area.

If there are further questions, please feel free to call.

Very truly yours,

INTERNATIONAL SALT COMPANY



James A. Loose
Engineering and General
Maintenance Superintendent

JAL/bf

cc: Mr. Gordon Aitken

RECEIVED
FEB 28 1975

PUR. WATERS
D.E.C. REG. 38