

**Responses to Comments in Letter USR7 from
Joni Hensley, United States Resident**

*Note: The responses listed below are numbered to correspond to the numbers shown
in the right-hand margin of the preceding comment letter.*

1. Although there is a potential for increased pumping to result in drawing nitrate-contaminated water into the city's wells, this potential also exists without increasing the withdrawal rates to meet the needs of this project. In fact, the water currently being pumped from all of the city's wells contains nitrates, some at concentrations above and some below the drinking water quality standard of 10 mg/L. It is incumbent upon the city to provide the means to mitigate an unacceptable nitrate level for its potable water supply, when and if that should occur with or without the proposed project. If nitrate levels in the city's potable water sources were to exceed the state and federal maximum contaminant level in the future, this problem could be remedied effectively by installing a treatment system to lower the nitrate levels in the water provided to consumers. An advantage provided to city water users by this project is that the applicant would pay for the cost of a treatment system, without consideration of whether or not the additional withdrawals required for its facility contributed to the problem.
2. There are several types of nitrate treatment systems available; the processes and resultant waste products would vary based on which type of system was selected. Ongoing water quality monitoring, and the flexibility that is provided by having multiple sources of water, would provide sufficient lead time for the city to implement a treatment system, if necessary, without compromising the quality of the water it supplies to its municipal customers.
3. This comment is outside the scope of this SEIS. Air quality impacts were addressed in the FEIS issued in February 2001.
4. This comment is outside the scope of this SEIS. On-site storage of chemicals was addressed in the FEIS issued in February 2001.