

# **EXHIBIT 79**

Maxus Energy Corporati  
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**MAXUS** February 1, 198

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Mr. George Cook  
Environmental Specialist  
New Jersey Department of  
Environmental Protection  
Industrial Site Evaluation Element (CN 028)  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Re: "Diamond Shamrock Chemicals Company" Matters at  
Kearny and Newark, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Cook:

As you requested in our telephone discussion, I am furnishing you a description of the relevant corporate history and structure of the responsible entity in the above matters, Occidental Chemical Corporation ("OCC"), and an explanation of Maxus' role in defending OCC with respect to such matters. At the outset you should understand that the various name changes and reorganizations recited below were undertaken for business reasons unrelated to these environmental matters and that OCC is a viable, operating entity.

1. Diamond Shamrock Chemicals Company, originally named Diamond Alkali Company, operated a plant at the 80 Lister Avenue, Newark, New Jersey site from the 1950's until 1969 and sold the premises in 1971. It operated a plant at the Kearny, New Jersey site from approximately 1948 until 1977 when the plant was shut down.

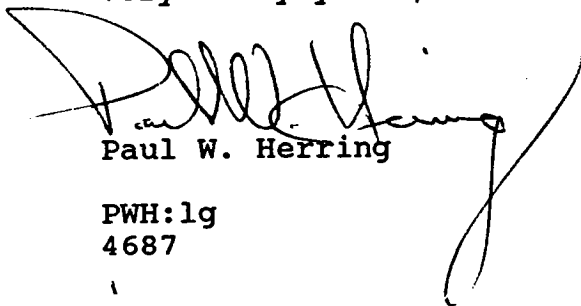
2. On September 4, 1986, Diamond Shamrock Corporation, formed in September 1983, [now Maxus Energy Corporation ("Maxus") pursuant to a name change in April 1987], the parent, holding company of Diamond Shamrock Chemicals Company, sold all the outstanding stock in Diamond Shamrock Chemicals Company to Oxy-Diamond Alkali Corporation, a company under the ownership of Occidental Petroleum Corporation. Diamond Shamrock Chemicals Company was then re-named Occidental Electrochemicals Corporation ("OEC"). Effective November 30, 1987, OEC was merged into OCC.

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3. Under the stock purchase agreement Diamond Shamrock Corporation (now Maxus) agreed to defend Diamond Shamrock Chemicals Company in regard to claims relating to the above sites. The stock purchase agreement did not operate as a novation to substitute Maxus for Diamond Shamrock Chemicals Company in these matters and hence OCC, as successor to Diamond Shamrock Chemicals Company, is the proper entity to be a party to the ongoing administrative and legal proceedings concerning these sites. Pursuant to the stock purchase agreement, Maxus personnel are representing OCC in communications with Agency officials and in carrying out any activities required of OCC at these sites.

I believe the above information should answer your questions.

Very truly yours,



Paul W. Herring

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bcc William Hutton