



Department of Environmental Protection

Jeb Bush
Governor

Twin Towers Office Building
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

David B. Struhs
Secretary

July 17, 2001

Ms. Jacklyn Gilmore
Risk Assessment Manager
Synergy Environmental, Inc.
Orlando Florida Branch Office
Post Office Box 905
Oakland, Florida 34760

Re: Bio-Matrix/Spill Sorb

Dear Ms. Gilmore:

The Bureau of Petroleum Storage Systems hereby accepts the Bio-Matrix/Spill Sorb (Bio-Matrix) industrial absorbent and filtration medium for free product recovery efforts and the removal of trace metals, hydrocarbons, solvents, insecticides, and other suitable contaminants from water. The product is also applicable for the remediation of contaminants adsorbed to soil as an amendment to land farming. It is our understanding that the product may also be used for applications that are beyond the regulatory jurisdiction of this bureau (ex. water purification, sewage treatment, containment of oil spills on navigable waterways). The name Bio-Matrix shall be herein referenced for the description of the product. Bio-Matrix is the North American label and Spill Sorb is the Canadian International label. This acceptance is applicable to the remediation of petroleum-contaminated sites within the regulatory jurisdiction of this bureau. Other state agencies, and other bureaus within the Department of Environmental Protection may recognize this acceptance if their needs and regulations are similar to this bureau.

As indicated in your literature, the Bio-Matrix product is processed from sphagnum peat moss. The inherent capillary action of the activated peat encapsulates oils, solvents, heavy metals, pesticides, and other organic chemicals. The product is mined in Canada and manufactured in Entwistle, Parkland County, Alberta, Canada TOE OSO. Enclosure 1 contains additional information about the absorbent that the bureau would like to pass along to readers of this letter.

A copy of this letter should be provided in the appendix of site-specific Remedial Action Plans proposing the use of Bio-Matrix so that technical reviewers throughout the state will be informed that the bureau has evaluated the acceptability of the product from a regulatory standpoint.

While the bureau does not endorse specific or brand name remediation products or processes, it does recognize the need to determine their acceptability from an environmental standpoint with respect to applicable rules and regulations, and the interests of public health, safety, and welfare. Vendors must then market the products and processes on their own merit regarding performance, cost, and safety in comparison to competing