



CON 12-15
Doc #13250

STATE OF IOWA

THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR
SALLY J. PEDERSON, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
JEFFREY R. VONK, DIRECTOR

April 17, 2001

Eva Schmitz
Terracon Environmental Services
600 Southwest Seventh Street, Suite M
Des Moines IA 50309

Dear Ms. Schmitz:

This letter is to inform you the IDNR has reviewed the Phase II Environmental Assessment Report submitted by Terracon on behalf of Heartland Organic Marketing Cooperative located in Stuart, Iowa. Based on information provided in the phase II report and on a cursory review of the vicinity of the site by IDNR there appears to be no immediate concern for contamination of identified receptors through groundwater (Stuart municipal or other private wells). Surface geologic materials consist of Pre-Illinoian glacial sediments not generally utilized as an aquifer due to inconsistent or low water yield. Depth to first bedrock is about 200 feet and the primary source of water for Stuart is deep (2800 ft.) bedrock well that utilizes the Ordovician aquifer. The distance to the nearest (known) well is over 1200 feet.

Extent of Contamination:

It is difficult to accurately determine the full extent of contamination of a site from three soil borings. Since the soil borings were located near the storage location of these compounds (bulk chemical building and dry fertilizer shed), it likely they are representative of the highest levels to be found at the site. It is probable, however, that a wider area of groundwater may be impacted than is indicated in the report. As such, the full extent of contaminated groundwater remains undetermined.

Summary of Groundwater Standards:

Despite the lack of supporting data in the phase II report to determine the gradient or hydraulic conductivity of groundwater the IDNR has decided to use the LRP contaminant standards for non-protected groundwater for the purpose of assessing contamination at this site. The IDNR notes the highest reported nitrate concentration is in excess of twice the state groundwater standard of 56,000 ug/L for non-protected groundwater. Also, the highest observed diesel concentration is three times above the state (UST) standard of 1200 ug/L. Although Atrazine was detected in excess of the drinking water standard of 3 ug/L, it is significantly below the non-protected groundwater standard of 1200 ug/L. No other detected compounds were in excess of a state standard.

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Although nitrogen and TEH-diesel exceed the standards for non-protected groundwater, and the full extent of contamination has not been determined, it is the decision of the IDNR that there are no apparent pathways to receptors and the level of contamination is not significant enough to require further site assessment. The decision to defer further action at the site, however, is subject to revision if future investigation reveals a viable pathway for human exposure, or significantly higher levels of contamination are detected at the site.

Please contact me at 1-515-242-5087 if you have any questions

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Culp", written in a cursive style.

Matthew Culp
IDNR-WMAD

CC: Stu Schmitz, IDNR Contaminated Sites
Susan Dixon, IDNR Land Quality Bureau
IDNR Field Office #5