



TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LARRY J. WILSON, DIRECTOR

July 8, 1998

Mrs. Jane B. McAllister
Ahlers, Cooney, Dorweiler, Hayne, Smith & Allbee, P.C.
100 Court Avenue, Suite 600
Des Moines, IA 50309-2231

RE: July 2, 1998, letter regarding property at
1201 Locust Street, Des Moines, Iowa

Dear Mrs. McAllister:

We have reviewed your letter regarding the arsenic found in a soil sample at the above-referenced site. The 9.8 ppm of arsenic found in borehole 2 at a depth of 7 feet is within the range of background levels of arsenic in soils that we commonly see. Therefore, we do not consider the arsenic found in borehole 2 to be a problem.

For your information, in the proposed Land Recycling Program rules (567 IAC Chapter 137) the statewide standard for arsenic in soil would be 0.3 ppm. The proposed site-specific soil standards for arsenic in a non-residential area would be 0.4 ppm and 3 ppm for soil <2 and 2-10 feet deep, respectively. While the level of arsenic in borehole 2 would exceed the statewide and non-residential site-specific standards, a background standard could be developed under the proposed Land Recycling Program rules. Development of a background standard would involve additional sampling. Since the site is not enrolled in the Land Recycling Program, the establishment of a site-specific background standard is not necessary.

Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Obr
Chief
Land Quality Bureau