



CON 12-15
Doc #16582

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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

PAUL W. JOHNSON, DIRECTOR

July 29, 1999

Mark Pitts
Vogel Fertilizer Company
Hamberg, Iowa 51640

RE: Sample Results for Private Wells near Vogel Fertilizer, Hamberg

Dear Mr. Pitts:

During a 1996 property assessment, nitrate-nitrogen was found above the drinking water standard in samples collected from four temporary monitoring wells installed on the Vogel Fertilizer property. The highest nitrate-nitrogen value of 521 mg/l was more than 50 times above the drinking water standard of 10 mg/l. Similar contamination has been found at many other agricultural chemical dealership sites in Iowa. These sites are of particular concern when they present a threat of contamination of an aquifer used as private or municipal water supply.

During assessment activities in 1997 and 1998 for a petroleum release, the direction of groundwater flow was indicated as being towards the east or southeast. The Hamberg city wells are located more than a half mile north of Vogel Fertilizer and do not appear to be at risk of contamination from the site. However, several houses are located to the south and east of the site. The department suspected that some of these houses could have private drinking wells and were at risk of contamination from the Vogel Fertilizer site. Because of this concern the department conducted a site visit June 24, 1999. During the visit, department staff took a brief tour of the Vogel Fertilizer property and collected samples from the private wells used by three nearby residences.

The Charles Kirk residence is the closest identified home with a private drinking water well. As shown on the attached map, the Kirk well is less than 100 feet south of the Vogel Fertilizer property. The Mike Wipf residence is the next closest downgradient residence, but is connected to city water and no longer has a private well. The Clark Reid and Carl Reid residence were also found to use private drinking water wells. As shown on the attached map the two Reid wells are located 800 and 1,300 feet east of the Vogel Fertilizer property.

With the permission of the owners, samples were collected from the wells of the Kirk and two Reid residences. The samples were analyzed for nitrate-nitrogen and common Iowa

herbicides. As shown in the attached results no herbicides were found above minimum detection limits in any of the three wells. These detection limits are at least 10 times less than the drinking water standards for any of these herbicides. Nitrate-nitrogen was only found above minimum detection limit in the sample from the Kirk well. The value of 3.2 mg/l is approximately 1/3 the drinking water standard of 10 mg/l.

Because of the near absence of detectable nitrate-nitrogen and the lack of detectable herbicides in the three private wells, the department is not planning to take any further action at the Vogel Fertilizer site.

If you have any questions, please contact me (515) 242-5087.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Vedder".

John Vedder
Uncontrolled Sites Section

ATTACHMENTS (Sample Results, Map)



Date of report: 07-15-1999

Sample Number	9957343
Date Received	06-25-1999
Project	WMSF
Date Collected	06-24-1999 10:00
Collection Site	carol reid residence
Collection Town	Hamburg
Description	water
Reference	
Collector	VEDDER JOHN
Phone	(515) 242-5087
Purchase Order	

Chain of Custody Record

Name of Survey or Activity: Vogel Fertilizer, Hamburg Voucher or Receipt No. _____

Description of Shipment:
6 Pieces(s) Consisting of 1 Box(es)

Contents of Shipment:

Sample No.	Types of Containers				Sample No.	Types of Containers			
	Cubittainer	1 qt Jar	1 pint plastic Bottle	ID		Cubittainer	Jar	Bottle	ID
Kirk res.		1	1		957341				
Clark Reid res.		1	1		957342				
Carol Reid res.		1	1		957343				
Total		3	3		Total				

Personnel Custody Record

Relinquished by (Sampler) <input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Unsealed	Received by <u>R. Ecker</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsealed	Date <u>6-25</u>	Time <u>0830</u>	Reason for Change of Custody <u>Lab analysis</u>
Relinquished by <u>Kevin D. Van Auker</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Unsealed	Received by <input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Unsealed	Date <u>6-28-99</u>	Time <u>3:05 pm</u>	Reason for Change of Custody <u>to IC for Lab analysis</u>
Relinquished by <input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Unsealed	Received by <u>B. Kuhn</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsealed	Date <u>6-29-99</u>	Time <u>1000</u>	Reason for Change of Custody <u>analysis</u>
Relinquished by <input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Unsealed	Received by <input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Unsealed	Date	Time	Reason for Change of Custody
Relinquished by <input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Unsealed	Received by <input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Unsealed	Date	Time	Reason for Change of Custody
Relinquished by <input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Unsealed	Received by <input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Unsealed	Date	Time	Reason for Change of Custody
Relinquished by <input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Unsealed	Received by <input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Unsealed	Date	Time	Reason for Change of Custody
Relinquished by <input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Unsealed	Received by <input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Unsealed	Date	Time	Reason for Change of Custody
Relinquished by <input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Unsealed	Received by <input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Unsealed	Date	Time	Reason for Change of Custody
Relinquished by <input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Unsealed	Received by <input type="checkbox"/> Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> Unsealed	Date	Time	Reason for Change of Custody