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CON 12-15
Koch Sulfur Products, Dubuque
RD

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March 30, 2000

Robert Drustrup
Department of Natural Resources
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

CON 12-15
Doc #17424

2000 MAR 31 P 1:37
DEPT. OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Re: Koch Sulfur Products Site

Dear Bob:

Several weeks ago I spoke with you about the City of Dubuque's intended purchase of property known as the Koch Sulfur Products Site. As you know, the previous owner of this site conducted several site assessments and performed some remedial work. We understand that work was done with the oversight of the Department of Natural Resources and that an informal determination was made that no further action need be taken on the property.

The City of Dubuque did not have access to reports for all the previous work performed on the site, and therefore retained Terracon to perform a Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessment. A copy of that site assessment report is enclosed. In summary, the assessment mentions three potential environmental issues:

1. Arsenic in soil;
2. Vanadium in groundwater; and
3. Sulfate in groundwater.

As I read the report, Terracon discounts the arsenic in soil as it is within the range of arsenic commonly found in soil in Iowa and therefore not a concern. The previously indicated vanadium in groundwater is suspected to be the result of suspended particles in groundwater, rather than representative of the quality of the groundwater, and thus not a concern.

The remaining concern is sulfate in groundwater. The concentrations of sulfate detected by Terracon in its recent assessment is consistent with the previous work done at the site. However, no statewide standard has been established for sulfate by which we may make a comparison.

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In our discussion, it was your initial response that the sulfate levels indicated in the enclosed report (maximum detected concentration 3,430 mg. per liter) is not of sufficient concern to require further action at this site. The City of Dubuque respectfully requests written confirmation of this position from the Department of Natural Resources. The City has received a comfort letter from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency stating that it has no federal interest in the site.

We understand that this site is not part of the Voluntary Cleanup Program and that the Department of Natural Resources cannot provide a no further action letter as described in that program. However, we would like some indication of your assessment of the environmental condition of this property regarding the need to take further action to address the concerns noted herein.

Thank you for your time and effort in this regard.

Very truly yours,

AHLERS, COONEY, DORWEILER, HAYNIE,
SMITH & ALLBEE, P.C.

By


Jane B. McAllister

JBm:dlj

Enclosure

cc + enc: Barry Lindahl
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