



Uncontrolled
Sites &
Emergency
Response

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
USER SITE INFORMATION REPORT

This USER Site Information Report has been generated for the A-1 SEPTIC SERVICE site located in Altoona, Iowa, Site ID: U77-0045. If you have any questions regarding the site, please contact Field Office 5, IDNR Project Manager, at (515) 281-9069.

About the USER Site Information Report

The USER Site Information Report is a compilation of the data entered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Uncontrolled Sites and Emergency Response staff. Sites are categorized by a unique identifier known as a Site ID. The number of USER sites entered into the database to date is 516.

The report is divided into four parts:

- Part 1: General Site Information*
- Part 2: Regulatory Action*
- Part 3: Work Plans & Site Reports*
- Part 4: State Registry Sites*

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Part 1 of the USER Site Report provides general information for a given site, such as the address, site name aliases, site background information, EPA and spill numbers, topographical map locaters, and site contacts. Also included in this segment of the report is site contamination information which identifies site contaminants detected in various media at the site, sources of the contaminants, source locations, and areas potentially impacted by the site.

Part 2 of the USER Site Report identifies regulatory activities taking place at a site. The status of those activities are also provided. The report is divided into four segments according to the regulatory activity: State Action, Assessment/Remedial Action, Consent and Administrative Orders, Record of Decisions, and Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)

Part 3 of the USER Site Report is comprised of any work plans or site reports submitted to the IDNR. Information is provided on the number of work plans or reports associated with a site, when they were received by the IDNR, reviewed, responded to, and approved. Some reports are submitted for IDNR records and not necessarily for Department review.

Part 4 of the USER Site Report is the status of a site if it is on the State Registry or has become a candidate for the Registry. Status information may include the eligibility of the site for the Registry, when it was added or removed from the Registry, and its site classification. The site classification is designated by the letters A through E, with "A" indicating immediate action is required at the site and "E" indicating no further action is required.

Disclaimer : The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is not responsible for inaccurate data provided in the USER Site Information Report. Most of the data entered in the USER database is a summary of information located in the IDNR files. Material in the files consists of correspondence between the IDNR and the public, reports generated by the IDNR Central and Field Office staff, work plans and reports prepared by environmental consultants for their clients, laboratory analytical data, non-laboratory data, complaints by the public, etc. Some of the data has not been verified. If you discover any information that is entered incorrectly, please notify one of the following:

1. The IDNR Project Manager identified at the beginning of the report
2. Cal Lundberg Contaminated Sites Supervisor, 515/281-7040
3. Tim Hall, Geology and Land Quality Bureau Chief, 515/281-8169



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SITE INFORMATION REPORT

Part 1: General Site Information

SiteID

U77-0045

Site Name

A-1 SEPTIC SERVICE

Other Name(s):

A-1 Septic Systems

Spill #'s:

EPA ID:

IAD085371565

Date Received:

Address

4761 NE 80th Street
Altoona, IA 50009
Polk County
Field Office 5

Site Background:

The site was owned and operated by Gilbert Thomas.

A-1 Septic, located in Altoona, was a small business that hauled waste fluids, including wastewater, sludge, off-spec and contaminated fuels, spent cleaning solvents, and spent automotive fluids. Pumper Trucks were dispatched from the Altoona location.

Beginning on May 9, 1998, various local, state and federal agencies became involved in the investigation and cleanup of illegal storage and disposal activities of A-1 Septic Service on the site and at two another locations in Des Moines. This has include the conviction of Gilbert Thomas on criminal charges for his role in these activities.

The site was discovered on May 9, 1998, after the Altoon Fire Department (AFD) received a complaint of strong petroleum odors coming from Mud Creek downstream from the site. The AFD discovered a large oil sheen on Mud Creek which was traced back to a PVC pipe on the site. This initial evidence of an illegal discharge led to subsequent involvement by the department, the Attorney General's Office for criminal charges, and finally EPA for a Removal Action.

In August 1998, the contractor for EPA conducted extensive sampling for a pre-CERCLIS screening and removal assessment. The property owner was asked to initiate a cleanup action. The owner paid for some additional assessment action but then expressed an inability to pay for the cleanup. EPA then decided to conduct the removal under the Oil Pollution Act.

The site includes two sets of buildings (northern and southern), multiple driveways, fenced pasture and a tree lined creek bed.

The northern buildings included the owners residence and garage with a separate drive and a large metal-sided garage with multiple doors and a separate drive. During the removal assessment by EPA, a PVC pipe was found to extend 500 feet upslope to an area of disturbed earth approximately 50' east of the large garage. During the removal, the pipe was found to have several connections with other perforated PVC pipe leading into the drainage way. Petroleum contaminated soil was excavated from a sludge pit immediately

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Site Name

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east of the large garage and within approximately 250 feet of the drainage way. Soil was removed in some areas to a depth of 12' to achieve the removal action level for TEH of 3,800 mk/kg.

The southern buildings included a large garage, additional farm buildings and two 10,000 gallon above ground tanks surrounded by a fence. The tanks and associated contaminants were removed for off-site disposal in February 1999. This included 1,756 gallons of flammable liquid and 2,280 gallons of non-hazardous waste oil, and an unquantified amount of stabilized sludge which were removed from the tanks. Then the tanks were dismantled for salvage and contaminated soil was excavated to meet the removal cleanup levels.

Clean soil from the northern part of the site property was used for backfill in for the soil excavation areas. The removal action was completed with the seeding of the backfill on February 26, 1999. Approximately 13,000 tons of contaminated soil were excavated in January and February 1999 and transported to the Polk county Metro Waste Landfill.

Site Type: Uncontrolled

Type Of Ownership Private

Site Origin: IDNR Field Office

Site Location: Rural

Site Area: 20 Acres

Project Manager Field Office 5

Map Location

Quarter:

Latitude:

Section: 0

Longitude:

Township:

Range:

UTM Coordinates

UTMx 0.00

UTMy 0.00

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Site Name

A-1 SEPTIC SERVICE

Site Contact

**PRP
Contact No.**

PRP Contact

1	Gilbert Thomas Owner A-1 Septic Services 4761 NE 80th Street Altoona, IA 50009 Phone 1: Phone 2: Direct Dial: Fax:
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Site Name

A-1 SEPTIC SERVICE

Site Contamination

Type of Industries that have operated at the facility include: Chemical Handling

Type of Contamination detected at the site: Petroleum

Medium Impacted Groundwater

Soil

Site Contaminants

Source of Contamination

Source:

Improper Disposal

Aboveground Storage Tank

Source Location:

Onsite

Description of Source Location:

SEE GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The sources (tanks and contaminated soil) were removed in January and February 1999.

**Nearby Areas Impacted or
Potentially Impacted by the Site:**

The areas of soil contamination were excavated and disposed off-site in January and February 1999.

Prior to the removal action, the soil contaminationn included benzene (7 mg/kg), toluene (45 mg/kg), ethylbenzene (15 mg/kg), and naphthalene (80 mg/kg).



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SITE INFORMATION REPORT

Part 2: Regulatory Action

Site ID **U77-0045**
Site Name A-1 SEPTIC SERVICE

Regulatory Action

Lead Agency:

Regulatory 455B.381(4) & (8) Haz. Cond.
Action: CERCLA

State Action

Assessment/Remedial

Site Assessment Action Status

Description of Site Assessment Action

Action completed

Removal Action Status

Description of Removal Action

Action completed

Removal action completed in February
1999.

Remedial Operable Units

Site ID **U77-0045**

Site Name A-1 SEPTIC SERVICE

Consent Order

Administrative Orders (AO)

Record of Decision (ROD) Operable Units

CERCLA Action

CERCLIS Discovery Date: 05/09/1998

Lead Agency: EPA

SI Anticipated Completion Date:

SI Completion Date: 09/30/1999

No Further Action Date: 01/05/2000

Reason For No Further Action: No significant exposure risks remain at the site after the completion of the removal action in Feb 1999.



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SITE INFORMATION REPORT

Part 3: Work Plans and Site Reports

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SiteName A-1 SEPTIC SERVICE

Work Plans

Site Reports

Report No.	Year	Report Type	Report Title	Due	Due Date Extension	Received	Comment Letter Sent	Approved
1	1998	RAR	Superfund Site Screening Assessment: A-1 Septic Services, Altoona, Iowa			01/11/2000		
2	1999	PA/SI	Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Report for the A-1 Septic Systems Site			01/11/2000		



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SITE INFORMATION REPORT

Part 4: State Registry Site

Site ID

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Site Name

A-1 SEPTIC SERVICE

Priority Eligibility Review:

Low

Eligibility Determination:

Eligibility Determination Date:

Site Registry Status:

Date Added Registry:

Date Removed Registry:

Site Classification: