



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
RICHARD A. LEOPOLD, DIRECTOR

February 22, 2010

Pat Joyce
Kerber Milling Company
1901 Main Street
PO Box 96
Emmetsburg, IA 50536

Subject: Kerber Milling Company, 1802 & 1817 Main Street, Emmetsburg, Iowa 50536
Review of the Limited Subsurface Assessment

Dear Mr. Joyce:

Thank you for the submittal of the Limited Subsurface Assessment (LSA) report, dated December 23, 2009, for the property referenced above. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has reviewed the report for evidence suggesting the existence of a hazardous substance.

The LSA report indicated that a former gas station, two former bulk petroleum facilities, and a former automotive sales and service facility were located on the site. (The 1931 Sanborn map identifies possible refining facilities at this site, rather than simply petroleum bulk storage facilities: Champlin Refining Co. and Shaffer Oil & Refining Co. The LSA does not describe the nature of petroleum refining process that may have been conducted at these facilities.) Each of six soil borings was advanced to a depth of approximately 14 ½ feet below ground surface (bgs) in order to collect subsurface soil samples for laboratory analysis. Benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes (BTEX), total extractable hydrocarbon (TEH)-diesel, TEH-gasoline, and TEH-waste oil were detected in several borings. Soil in the vicinity of one of the former bulk petroleum facilities (boring SB3) exceeded the DNR standards for benzene, ethylbenzene, and TEH-diesel. No groundwater samples were collected as part of this investigation.

Based on the soil sample results exceeding the soil leaching to groundwater standard and the lack of groundwater data, the DNR could not make a determination regarding the existence of a hazardous condition at the site. To complete this determination, DNR is requesting collection and analysis of a groundwater sample collected from the area of highest observed soil contamination, i.e., in the vicinity of SB3. The results may be reported to DNR in a letter report that describes the methodology used for collection of the sample, on-site observation, and results of the laboratory analysis. At the minimum, the sample should be analyzed for BTEX and TEH. At this time, DNR is not requesting a site assessment workplan under of 567 Iowa Administrative Code (I.A.C.) Chapter 133, but this may be required based on the results of the limited groundwater sampling requested here.

Feel free to contact me if there are any questions, comments, or concerns at jim.kacer@dnr.iowa.gov or (515) 281-4117.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Kacer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Kacer, PE, CIH
Environmental Specialist
Contaminated Sites Section
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

cc: Cal Lundberg, Supervisor, Contaminated Sites Section, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Tami Rice, Environmental Specialist Senior, Contaminated Sites Section, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Keith DeLange, Senior Project Manager, GeoTek Engineering & Testing Services, Inc., 909 East 50th Street North, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104
Michael Gabor, 111 N. Dodge Street, PO Box 617, Algona, IA 50511
Field Office 3, 1900 North Grand Ave, Suite E17, Spencer, IA 51301