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STATE OF IOWA

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ROGER L. LANDE, DIRECTOR

January 11, 2012

Ms. Michelle Mapes
EVP-General Counsel & Corporate Secretary
Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc.
450 Regency Parkway, Suite 400
Omaha, Nebraska 68114

Subject: Green Plains Grain, 309 West 7th Street, Spencer, Iowa 51301

Dear Ms. Mapes:

Thank you for the submittal of the Phase II Limited Environmental Site Assessment report received on December 21st, 2011 for the property referenced above.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has reviewed the Phase II Environmental Site Assessment for evidence suggesting the existence of a hazardous substance. While contaminants have been found, the DNR has not identified evidence suggesting the likely existence of a hazardous condition.

As noted in the Phase II report, contaminants detected in soil samples were at concentrations below statewide standards.

Benzene was detected at a concentration above the statewide standard in groundwater sample B-2. TEH as diesel was detected at concentrations above the Iowa Tier 1 Look-Up Value, Actual Ingestion in all three groundwater samples. TEH as motor oil was detected at concentrations above the Iowa Tier 1 Look-Up Value, Actual Ingestion in groundwater sample B-2 and B-3.

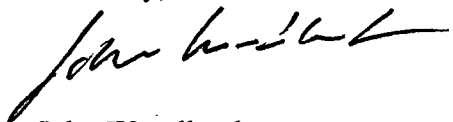
There are no nearby receptors and the apparent source of contamination (bulk tanks) is no longer onsite.

With consideration of the conditions noted above, the Department does not require any follow-up action based on the Phase II findings. This determination should not be construed to be an endorsement by the DNR that a hazardous condition does not exist on the property. Instead, it is a conclusion by the DNR that available information (without regard to the quality or quantity of that information) does not suggest the likely existence of hazardous condition on the property. Furthermore, this determination does not constitute an endorsement by the DNR as to the appropriateness of any proposed use of the property. If such an endorsement is sought, the property may be enrolled in the Iowa Land Recycling Program (LRP), which would involve a thorough investigation and assessment of risks associated with possible uses of the property (www.iowadnr.com/land/consites/lrp/conLRP.html).

Since there are no regulatory requirements for the conduct of Phase I and Phase II Environmental Assessments, the DNR does not approve, reject or otherwise make judgment on the quality or adequacy of the Phase I and Phase II Environmental Assessments. Instead the DNR looks at the information provided in Phase I and Phase II Environmental Assessments in addition to other generally available information about the property (e.g., geology, well location, land use) for evidence of a potential hazardous condition (as defined in 567 Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) Chapter 131). Hazardous conditions are required to be reported to the DNR (567 IAC Chapter 131).

Feel free to contact me if there are any questions, comments, or concerns at (515) 281-4117.

Sincerely,



John Woodland
Environmental Specialist
Contaminated Sites Section
Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources
502 E. 9th St.
Des Moines, IA 50319
john.woodland@dnr.iowa.gov

Cc: Cal Lundberg, Supervisor, Contaminated Sites Section, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Tami Rice, Environmental Specialist Senior, Contaminated Sites, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Art Currier, ATC Associates, 223 East 4th Street, Suite D, Waterloo, IA 50703
DNR Field Office #3, 1900 North Grand Ave, Suite E17, Spencer, IA 51301