



STATE OF IOWA

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

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ROGER L. LANDE, DIRECTOR

February 23, 2012

TODD A KING
DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
CHS INC
5500 CENEX DRIVE
INVER GROVE HEIGHTS MN 55077

Subject: Submittal of the 2011 Site Monitoring Report, Emmetsburg, Iowa

Dear Mr. King:

Thank you for the submittal of the Site Monitoring Report for the Former Thermogas Facility located at 4491 Rendering Works Road, Emmetsburg, Iowa.


As mentioned in the report, exceedences of metolachlor and nitrate-nitrite as nitrogen were observed onsite during the 2011 sampling events conducted in June and November. Nitrate-nitrite as nitrogen exceedences were observed in seven of the monitoring wells during the June sampling event with one exceedence noted during the November sampling event. The highest concentration of nitrate-nitrite as nitrogen detected was 15.8 mg/L which only slightly exceeds the standard of 10 mg/L.

Exceedences of metolachlor were observed in MW-2, MW-3, MW-8, MW-14, and MW-15; however, only the concentrations observed in MW-14 and MW-15 significantly exceeded the applicable standard. As mentioned previously, while we don't know the source of the metolachlor onsite, it appears that something may have occurred onsite prior to the November 2008 sampling event that resulted in spikes of metolachlor in several monitoring wells (MW-1, MW-2, MW-7, MW-8, MW-9, and MW-16). It appears that the metolachlor has slowly migrated from the apparent high concentration previously observed in MW-2 in 2008 to the current high concentration observed in MW-15 during the 2011 sampling events. Concentrations in MW-1, MW-2, MW-7, MW-8, MW-9, and MW-16 are now within historical ranges.

A recommendation was made in the report to reclassify the site. However, additional monitoring is required due to the fact that the site is located in a 5-year source water protection area with regard to nearby municipal wells, we have been unable to determine the cause of the increase in metolachlor, and there are high concentrations of metolachlor that have migrated from the site. Since metolachlor is the contaminant of concern, the required groundwater monitoring may be reduced to include sampling of only metolachlor in the following monitoring wells: MW-1, MW-2, MW-3, MW-7, MW-8, MW-9, MW-14, MW-15, and MW-16.

We look forward to receiving the Site Monitoring Report for the site referenced above **no later than January 31, 2013**. Feel free to contact me if there are any questions, comments, or concerns at 515-281-4420.

Sincerely,



Tami S. Rice
Environmental Specialist Senior
Contaminated Sites Section
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Cc: Cal Lundberg, Supervisor, Contaminated Sites Section, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Jennifer Carpenter, Seneca Environmental Services, 4140 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50313
Ray Stanley, Stanley Propane, 1208 Broadway, Emmetsburg, Iowa 50536
MaxYield Coop, 4498 Works Road, Emmetsburg, Iowa 50536
Field Office 3, 1900 North Grand Avenue, Spencer, Iowa 51301