



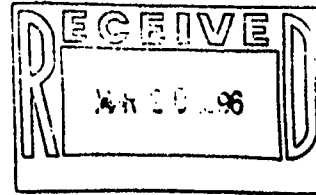
TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR

CON12-15
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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LARRY J. WILSON, DIRECTOR

19 March, 1996

Dr. Ralph Farrar
Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services
Ames Community School District
1120 South Kellogg,
Ames, Iowa 50010



SUBJECT: Environmental assessment related to underground tank removals at Ames schools

Dear Mr. Farrar:

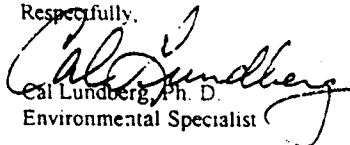
Staff of the IDNR Solid Waste Section have had the opportunity to review and discuss the materials you submitted regarding environmental assessments at six schools in the Ames Community School District. These were: Northwood School, Ames High School, Roosevelt School, Fellows School, Kate Mitchell School, and Warren Meeker School. This work was conducted in conjunction with the removal of underground storage tanks which we understand were used to store fuel oil for the purpose of heating and which we further understand to have been exempted from regulation under underground storage tank rules. Our position is predicated on this understanding of the situation.

The department has been inundated with varied reports of contamination, generally stemming from environmental assessments conducted for the purpose of property transfer. Because the number of such sites far exceeds the resources we have available for addressing them, we have been forced to prioritize them. We will be dealing only with sites which we deem to be the most serious threats to human health. Our first priority is sites where there is an existing or imminent threat of human exposure to levels of contamination in excess of health based guidelines. A second group of sites, which we will deal with as resources are available, will include sites characterized by: very high levels of contaminants, the probability of large amounts of waste, and/or the likelihood of an ongoing release of contaminants.

It is apparent that some of the sites in question are not free from residual petroleum contamination, however, none of the sites appear to be characterized by conditions described in the preceding paragraph. Therefore the IDNR will require no further action in any of these cases. It is suggested that you follow the recommendations of your consultant regarding follow up monitoring, in some cases. This judgment is based on information currently available to us and is subject to revision, if additional information suggests such a change to be warranted. It should be noted that many environmental assessments are cursory in nature and do not, therefore, provide adequate information to permit an evaluation with a high degree of confidence.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 515 281-7040

Respectfully,


Carl Lundberg, Ph. D.
Environmental Specialist

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