

April 5, 1993

Mr. John Lande
Iowa State Bank
5 E. Call Street
Algona, IA 50511

New Site (Micro Fiche)	Con 12-15
Iowa State Bank - Algona	JHGV

CON12-15
DOC# 34538

SUBJECT: IDNR response to property audit information concerning 415 E. State Street property, Algona, Iowa

Dear Mr. Lande:

I apologize that it has taken so long for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to contact you regarding the information you submitted about environmental contamination at the 415 E. State Street location in Algona.

The IDNR has a considerable backlog of site assessment work which needs attention. In large part this has resulted from activities outside of the control of the Solid Waste Section, specifically property audits for financial institutions and underground tank investigations which turned up contaminants other than petroleum. Both of these sources have made us aware of numerous instances of environmental contamination which warrant some level of further investigation. Because the number of sites coming to us so far exceeds our capacity, we have been forced to prioritize the sites. For the time being we are only able to deal with sites considered to be a high priority, generally meaning those sites with very high levels of contamination, those sites which have impacted drinking water sources, or those which pose an imminent risk of contaminating drinking water supplies. Lower priority sites will be handled as we are able, but for the time being I would have to say that they are deferred indefinitely. It should be noted that the information available from property audits, while it may be sufficient for the purposes of financial institutions, is generally speaking, woefully inadequate for the needs of IDNR. In most instances it is difficult to assess the true severity of the problem or to assess what general level of risk to human health is posed by the site in question.

Our evaluation of the information available for the site at 415 E. State Street in Algona indicates that this site does not warrant the immediate attention of IDNR as a high priority site. In those cases where a site is not deemed to be a high priority we are offering two possible options. First, the responsible parties may defer any action until the IDNR contacts them. Second, they may attempt to fulfill the requirements of Chapter 133 of the IDNR rules on their own. In this latter case it will be necessary to thoroughly document the investigation and the remedial decisions based on it. This documentation is to be submitted to the IDNR for future review, as time permits. One caution is that this is no guarantee that the IDNR will concur with the completeness of the investigation or the remedial measures instituted. This may be somewhat discomfoting, but there is simply no other way for the Department to deal with this situation at the current time.

I am attaching a copy of Chapter 133 for your reference. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 515/281-7040.

Respectfully,

Cal Lundberg
Cal Lundberg
Environmental Specialist
Solid Waste Section

cc: FO 2

Ms. Margaret L. Pemberton, Attorney, 9540 Woodson Street, Overland Park, Kansas 66207