

19 March, 1997

CON12-15
DOC# 34633

Mr. David Olson
Koch Operating Group
Environmental Services
4111 E. 37th St. North
Wichita, Kansas 67220

RE: Environmental assessment for Koch Agri Services site at Ferguson & Center, Shenandoah, Iowa

Dear Mr. Koch:

Staff of the IDNR Solid Waste Section have had the opportunity to review and discuss the materials submitted regarding the environmental assessment for the Koch Agri Services site at Ferguson & Center Streets in Shenandoah, Iowa.

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.

The assessment does indicate some contamination of soils and groundwater by agricultural chemicals, some of which exceeds guidelines. However, it does not appear that the situation meets the criteria, outlined above, for an elevated priority site. Therefore the IDNR will require no further action regarding agricultural chemicals in this case. 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.

The assessment did indicate that an underground storage tank had been located on the property and that there appears to be some related contamination. Regarding this matter I have referred the information to Tom Collins of our Underground Storage Tank Section, his phone number is 515/281-8879. Any pronouncement concerning this issue will have to come from that section of the IDNR.

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

Respectfully,

Cal Lundberg, Ph D
Environmental Specialist

cc: FO 4