CON12-15 DOC# 35860

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

3 June, 1997

Mr. Roger Boydston
Iowa Department of Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50319

SUBJECT: Environmental assessment for aboveground storage tank site in US-6 right of way, Waukee

Dear Mr. Boydston:

Staff of the IDNR Solid Waste Section have had the opportunity to review and discuss the materials submitted regarding the environmental assessment for the former aboveground storage tank site along the right of way for improved US Highway 6 in Waukee.

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 limited details received by us indicate that there is petroleum contamination of groundwater, in excess of department guidelines, at the site. However, it does not appear that the situation fits any of the criteria for an elevated priority, as outlined above. Therefore, the IDNR will require no further action 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.

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

Respectfully,

Cal Lundberg, Ph. D. Environmental Specialist

cc: FO 5

James Gastineau, UST Section, IDNR

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SITE INVESTIGATION REPORT

REVIEW FORM

SITE INFORMATION

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