



April 19, 2021

MARY BLEL
CHMM
550 CENEX DR
MS 628
INVER GROVE HEIGHTS MN 55077

FARMERS COPPERATIVE ELEVATOR
PO BOX 8
OTTOSEN IOWA 50570

Subject: 2020 Site Monitoring Report Review for Former Thermogas at 833 South Phillips St., Algona, IA 50511

Ms. Blel,

Thank you for the submittal of the Annual Site Monitoring Report (SMR) received by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (Iowa DNR) on January 7, 2021. This report outlines semi-annual sampling in 2020, explains that the planned excavation will not be moving forward, and requests closure of the site. As noted in the report, the excavation that had been planned for summer/fall of 2020 did not move forward. Groundwater monitoring occurred onsite in May and November 2020. The condition of MW-3 remains unacceptable and could not be sampled. Please properly abandon this well as soon as possible. All other wells (MW-1, MW-2, MW-4/R, MW-5, MW-6, MW-7, MW-8, MW-9 and MW-10) were sampled in May and November.

Most samples were analyzed for semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), nitrate - nitrite as N (nitrate), and ammonia as N. Nitrate-nitrite as N was detected above lifetime health advisory level (HAL) of 10 mg/L in seven of the nine wells with concentrations ranging from 21.9 mg/L to 1,020 mg/L. Nitrate concentration continue to be elevated across the site. In particular, two of the property boundary wells (MW-2 and MW-8) presented an increasing trend over the past three sampling events. In addition, nitrate concentrations at both wells far exceed the HAL standard.

Ammonia as N exceeded the HAL of 30 mg/L in MW-1, MW-2 and MW-4 with concentrations ranging from 107 mg/L to 606 mg/L. Over the past three monitoring events, the ammonia concentration is rising in MW-2 and MW-4R. Acetochlor, Alachlor, Atrazine, and Metolachlor exceeded applicable regulatory standards. The chemicals have rising concentrations in MW-4R.

At this time, site closure is not accepted. As noted above, many wells have elevated concentrations, are not nearing standards, and/or have not exhibited decreasing trends throughout the last three sampling events. Closure of a site is usually considered once standards are being achieved on all offsite wells and steady/declining concentrations approaching standards are achieved onsite. At this time, continued semi-annual monitoring is required.

The City of Algona's ordinance 859 has been reviewed and found acceptable by Iowa DNR. In the next submittal, please provide letters from both City and County permitting authorities stating they have reviewed maps and relevant materials for the site and that no wells will likely be permitted in this area of concern. These letters must be signed by the proper authority and presented on City and County letterhead.

Please continue to monitor all available site wells semi-annually. The next Site Monitoring Report should be submitted to the Iowa DNR by **January 31, 2022**. Please contact me at (515)725-8372 or shelly.nellesen@dnr.iowa.gov with any questions that may arise.

Sincerely,

Shelly Nellesen
Environmental Specialist
Contaminated Sites Section
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Cc: Michael Sullivan, Iowa DNR Solid Waste & Contaminated Sites Supervisor
Iowa DNR Field Office 2 in Mason City
Linda Watts, GeoTek, 909 East 50th St. N, Sioux Falls, SD 57104