



September 5, 2023

ASHLEY SMELSER  
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
800 LINCOLN WAY  
AMES IA 50010-6915

**Re: Iowa DOT Headquarters Elevator Shaft (800 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA)  
Contaminated Sites Database Site ID No. 2762  
Initial Site Screening**

Ms. Boese:

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has received your Spill Report. Thank you for the submission. The DNR has reviewed the report for evidence suggesting the existence of a hazardous condition. While contaminants over Statewide Standards (SWS) have been detected, the IDNR has not identified evidence suggesting the likely existence of a hazardous condition and is therefore deferring further assessment. The decision to defer assessment at this Site is based on the limited extent and concentrations of contaminants documented in the Spill Report.

Based off the report findings, groundwater waste oil concentrations (1.56 mg/L) exceed the Protected Groundwater Source (PGWS) Statewide Standard (SWS) of 0.73 mg/L, but is below the non-PGWS SWS of 15 mg/L. No soil concentrations exceed SWS target levels.

Story County has an Iowa DNR approved ordinance in effect that that restricts the installation of private wells without a construction permit. Although no hydraulic conductivity testing was not completed for the Spill Report, based off assessments completed for other sites in the area, the Site will conservatively be assumed to be classified as a PGWS. However, the Story County Well Ordinance (Ordinance No. 60) mentioned above allows for the PGWS pathway to be incomplete and the non-PGWS target levels are not exceeded.

Additionally, The City of Ames has an active municipal well (#11, ID:35473) approximately 800' north of the Site. The City confirmed the well is currently active, but all wells are periodically sampled for contamination. The well is assumed to be cross-gradient of the overall groundwater flow direction near the Site. Two LUST sites are located between the Site and municipal well, both currently classified as No Risk. Due to the well distance from the site, assumed cross-gradient direction, and relatively low TEH-waste oil concentrations at the site, the municipal well is not believed to be at risk due to this release.

With consideration of the conditions noted above, the Department does not require any follow-up action based on these findings. This determination should not be construed as an endorsement by the DNR that a hazardous condition does not exist on the property. Instead, it is a conclusion by the DNR that available information does not suggest the likely existence of hazardous condition on the property based on current usage.

Since there are no regulatory requirements for the conduct of Spill Reports, the DNR also does not approve, reject or otherwise make judgment on the quality or adequacy of the report. Instead, the DNR evaluates the information provided as well as other available information about the property (e.g., geology, well locations, local land use) for evidence of a potentially hazardous condition as defined in 567 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 131 ([567 IAC 131](#)).

Feel free to contact me with any questions at [\(515\) 721-7024](tel:5157217024) or by email at [andrew.carver@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:andrew.carver@dnr.iowa.gov).

Sincerely,

Andrew Carver, CGP# 2106  
Environmental Specialist  
Land Quality Bureau

cc: Michael Sullivan  
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