AE S
Ottumwa WW

Iowa
Fields of Opportunities

STATE OF IOWA

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ROGER L. LANDE, DIRECTOR

September 21, 2011

Jesse (Jay) Merrill, Maintenance Foreman
City of Ottumwa, WPCF
2222 Emma St.
Ottumwa, IA 52501

Re: Northside trunk sewer leak letter dated 9-1-11

Dear Mr. Merrill

We received your letter and appreciate your explanation of the leakage from the Northside trunk sewer which is also a river wall to the Des Moines River. Your explanation however, doesn't identify what steps will be taken to keep the leaks from occurring again which you indicate may be the case. Also of concern is these recent sets of leaks were only detected because the water level in the river was low and additional leaks might not be observed when river levels return to normal. Additionally, is would seem reasonable to suspect that if the sewer leaks out during low river levels, the river would leak in during high river levels.

The North trunk sanitary sewer serves a considerable portion of the Ottumwa community and a major failure could result in a significant discharge of raw sewage into the Des Moines River. We suspect the city would agree such an event would not be in the best interest of anyone. Therefore, we are requiring the City of Ottumwa to develop a plan of action identifying what steps the city will take to address the deterioration of the Northside trunk sewer and prevent additional sewer leaks into the Des Moines River. The plan must be submitted to this office no later than **November 23, 2011.**

If you have any questions regarding the requirements of letter please feel free to contact Russell Royce or myself in this office.

Sincerely,
FIELD SERVICES & COMPLIANCE BUREAU

Dennis Ostwinkle
Field Office Supervisor

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xc: ✓Records Section, Des Moines
✓Ottumwa WW file

Suspense: 11-23-11

Environmental Services Division, Field Office #6, 1023 W. Madison, Washington, Iowa 52353-1623 Tel 319-653-2135 Fax 319-653-2856
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OTTUMWA

CITY OF BRIDGES...RIVER OF OPPORTUNITY

RECEIVED
SEP 06 2011
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
FO6

September 1, 2011

To: Paul Brandt
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Field Office # 6
1023 W. Madison St.
Washington, IA 52353-1623

Paul,

This letter is to serve as a written follow up to my conversation with Ross, August 31, 2011, regarding the discovery and repair of holes in the south wall of our Northside trunk sewer, which had been leaking into the Des Moines River. I had received a call at the plant on Tuesday, about noon, August 30th, 2011, stating several leaks were sighted in our river wall (same as the south wall of our trunk sewer.) I called City of Ottumwa Public Works Director, Larry Seals to inform him.

This year we had our boat, which was used to access the holes in the river wall. Our WPCF maintenance crew assisted the Sewer Maint. crew first thing Wednesday morning to repair the leaking wall.

We repaired several holes. Estimating 30,000 gallons, estimate only, may be low. City engineer thinks these holes where from the deteriorating steel pins from concrete form to form. We continue to monitor this wall. I'm sure their will be other's if this is true.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

Respectfully,

Jesse Merrill

Jesse (Jay) Merrill
Maintenance Foreman
City of Ottumwa, WPCF
641 683-0641

Water Pollution Control Facility
2222 South Emma Street, Ottumwa, Iowa 52501
Telephone 641-683-0641 Fax 641-683-0647