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STATE OF IOWA

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

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ROGER L. LANDE, DIRECTOR

September 30, 2011

Larry Seals, Director of Public Works
City of Ottumwa
105 East 3rd. St.
Ottumwa, IA 52501

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

Dear Mr. Seals

We previously received a letter from Jay Mild explaining the leakage from the Northside trunk sewer which is also a river wall to the Des Moines River. However our response went to Mr. Mild by mistake and not to you. We were informed of our mistake so we are contacting you now.

In this letter it doesn't identify what steps will be taken to keep the leaks from occurring again which was indicated to be a likely possibility. 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, it 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 30, 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: 11-30-11

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