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Friday, September 29, 2017

TO: Terry Jones, IDNR Environmental Specialist Senior
Field Office #6
1023 W. Madison St.
Washington, IA 52353-1623

Terry,
This is a follow up to the voice mail I left for you on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 10:48 A.M. I called to report that our Vertical Loop Reactor (VLR) cell # 2 had an abnormal amount of air causing water to splash up in the northeast corner. We had seen this years ago, and at that time we had a collapsed baffle plate. The baffle plate helps disperse the air evenly.

We started pumping the tank into cell # 1 at 9:45 A.M. that morning. When it was pumped down enough to see the baffle plate, we discovered the bolts connecting the plate to the divider wall on the east had broken, and the 1st two sections of the baffle were partially collapsed. The force of the water and air circulating also caused the baffle to bounce up and down, and caused several of the front edge plates to crack. There is approximately six feet of water and solids above the baffle plate, so there is no way to see when something like this has a problem. We are checking with Envirex – Evoqua to see if they have the same size panels either in stock or can still be manufactured, or if we will need to have these fabricated locally. I will attach pictures of the broken baffle plate when I email this.

We do not have a timeline yet on how long this will take to repair. In the meantime, we are able to flow from Cell # 1 directly to Cell # 3 and then to Cell # 4. This would be the same process we would utilize if we were doing routine maintenance and inspection, or changing out diffuser membranes.

I will stay in contact to keep you informed on the progress of this situation.

Respectfully,
Kam Reeves, Superintendent
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