



January 24, 2018

Alan DeBruin, Chairman
Mahaska County Solid Waste Commission
106 South First Street
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

SUBJECT: Notice of Violation: Construction Repair [567 IAC 113.7(6)];
Operator Certification [567 IAC 113.8(6)j];
Litter Collection [567 IAC 113.8(3)f]
Mahaska County Sanitary Landfill, 2979 Highway 63, Oskaloosa, IA
Permit No. 62-SDP-01-74P; Complaint No. 25038; ACO No. 2016-SW-01

Dear Mr. DeBruin:

Enclosed is the report completed by Bill Gross of the Field Office #5 staff following the complaint investigation at the Mahaska County Sanitary Landfill.

The report should be self-explanatory. Please take note of the requirements and reminders listed near the end, and address them promptly.

Mr. Gross investigated allegations of several operational problems at the landfill. He has determined that this past summer Mr. Thomas accidentally damaged the landfill liner and then attempted to repair it without DNR notification or the oversight of a professional engineer. As a result, the Iowa DNR is taking disciplinary action against Mr. Thomas, a certified landfill operator. We are placing Mr. Thomas on probation pending completion of pertinent landfill and personnel management training.

By February 20, 2018, submit a training plan (with time schedule) for Mr. Thomas, a plan (with time schedule) to properly repair the landfill liner under the auspices of a professional engineer in Iowa, and a plan comply with daily litter collection and record keeping requirements stated in the 2016 administrative consent order.

This information is being forwarded to the Iowa DNR Legal Services Section. You may contact Bill Gross (515-725-0271; bill.gross@dnr.iowa.gov) or this office with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ted Petersen", is written over a horizontal line.

Ted Petersen
Supervisor, Field Office #5

c: Amy Davidson, Iowa DNR Land Quality Bureau (w/encl.)
David Scott, Iowa DNR Legal Services Section (w/encl.)

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION**

Field Office #5

7900 Hickman Road, Suite 200, Windsor Heights, Iowa 50324-4404

Phone: (515) 725-0268

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REPORT OF INVESTIGATION**INVESTIGATION DATE****CURRENT:** 1/8/2018**LAST:** 9/8/2017

TO: Alan DeBruin, Chairman
Mahaska County Solid Waste Commission
106 South First Street
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

SUBJECT: Mahaska County Sanitary Landfill Complaint Investigation
2979 Highway 63, Oskaloosa, IA
Permit No. 62-SDP-01-74P; Complaint No. 25038

PERSONS CONTACTED: Alan DeBruin, commission chairman (641-660-0333)
Steve Thomas, landfill manager (641-673-9266)
David Heatherly, landfill operator (641-660-0305)

OBSERVATIONS:

In December, 2017, I received a report from David Heatherly reporting several problems with the operation of the Mahaska County Sanitary Landfill. During my site visit, I met with Messrs. Heatherly, DeBruin, and Thomas. Mr. Heatherly gave me unmarked photos and a long list of concerns. Some items on the list (which I gave to Messrs. Thomas and DeBruin) are difficult to understand. I reduced the list to a few categories/issues. These issues and my findings are as follows:

- The landfill liner near the leachate piezometer at the east end of Cell 2 was damaged last summer. Steve Thomas did not report it, but performed a repair of the damaged liner without the oversight of a professional engineer. Steve also ran over leachate pipe cleanout at the west end of Cell 1, but did not properly repair it.
- ✓ I could not see evidence of this activity at the time of my site visit because of waste, soil, and snow cover in the area. Steve Thomas said that he had repaired damage to the liner. He denied the allegation about the cleanout damage.
- For several years, wastes from outside the landfill planning area was frequently brought to the landfill (especially by Midwest Sanitation of Pella and Cargill).
- ✓ Before arriving at the landfill, I stopped at the Midwest Sanitation office in Pella and discussed this matter. They denied knowingly delivering waste from outside the Mahaska County planning area. Steve Thomas said that Mr. Heatherly may be mis-interpreting vehicles with license plates from outside Mahaska County as having waste from outside the planning area. Cargill and Eddyville are now within the Mahaska planning area. I could find no clear evidence to make a conclusion on this allegation.
- Various special and hazardous wastes have been buried at the landfill without proper documentation.
- ✓ Steve Thomas denied that this had occurred. I checked on asbestos disposal and found that the burial location was being identified, though more precision is needed to identify burial locations. I could not draw a definitive conclusion about this allegation.
- In the past, Steve Thomas pumped leachate out of a storage tank to a creek. He sometimes did this on nights and weekends.
- ✓ Steve Thomas denied this. He said leachate has been hauled to Oskaloosa wastewater treatment plant. I investigated a complaint about leachate disposal several years ago found records satisfactory.

While, on-site, I checked out operational conditions at the landfill.

- The working face showed proper compaction and cover.
- Cover and erosion on the north filled area continued to show the need for improvement.
- A shingle pile, which I observed atop the north area during my previous inspection had not been removed.
- Significant litter was on-site. Steve Thomas' litter collection record was inadequate. This has been a recurring deficiency and is a provision of a previous administrative consent order (No. 2016-SW-01).

REQUIREMENTS:

1. The damaged liner must be properly in accordance with the approved plan and with the approval of a professional engineer. [567 IAC 113.7(6)]
2. Steve Thomas as a certified landfill operator, must comply with apply knowledge and ability in performing duties which include compliance with rules and permit conditions applicable to landfill operation. [567 IAC 113.8(6)j]
3. Collect litter daily. This includes on-site litter unless unfavorable working conditions prevent its collection. A dated record of unsafe working conditions must be maintained. [567 IAC 113.8(3)f]
4. Properly dispose of the shingle pile now located on the north filled area. [567 IAC 113.8(2)f]

REMINDERS:

1. Unless another arrangement is made, accept only wastes from within the planning area. [567 IAC 113.4(2)]
2. Repair erosion, apply adequate final cover, and establish dense vegetation over the north filled area as soon as condition allow. [567 113.8(2)f(4)]
3. Improve the identification of the location of asbestos burial. [567 IAC 113.4(2)]

AUTHENTICATION**INSPECTOR:** Bill Gross**DATE:** 1/22/18**REVIEWER:** Ted Petersen**DATE:** 1/24/18



east slope of north fill area



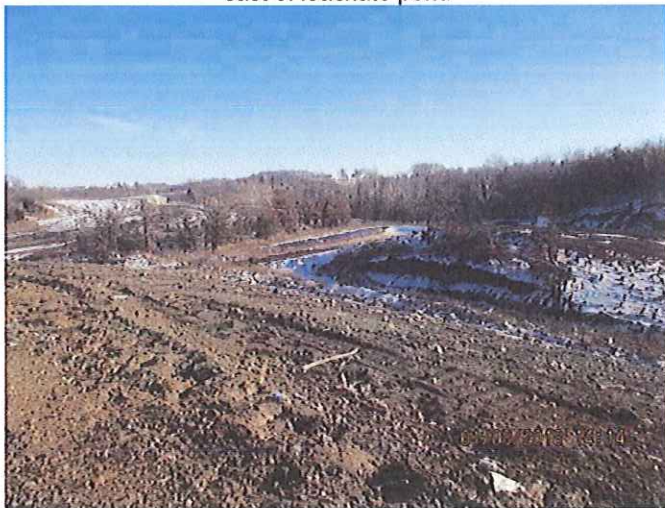
working area in Cell 2



east of leachate pond



working area in Cell 2



facing southeast toward leachate pond



southwest slope of north fill area



facing southeast toward leachate pond



shingle pile on north filled area



facing southeast



gas venting at east toe of north filled area



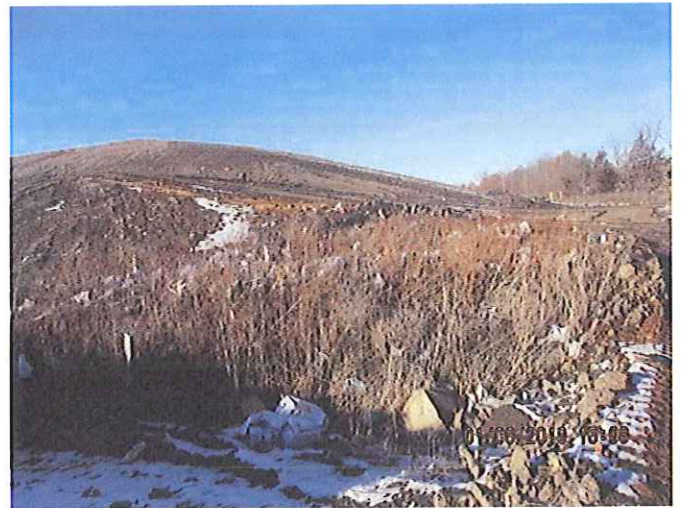
shingle pile on north filled area



litter northeast of working face



litter southeast of working area



southeast corner of Cell 2



east end of Cell 2



litter east of Cell 2