Iowa
Fields of Opportunities

STATE OF IOWA

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

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ROGER L. LANDE, DIRECTOR

INVESTIGATION MEMO

DATE: April 19, 2011

BY: Mark Heiderscheit
Environmental Specialist

RE: Complaint #04/11-23
Complaint ID #13269

Program ID #: 9944
Facility Location: Vision AG, LLC
P.O. Box 288
2038 Keokuk-Washington Road
Keota, IA 52248
County: Washington
Section 2, T-76-N, R-7-W
Jackson Township

OBSERVATIONS:

On April 15, 2011 at ~1400 I visited with representatives of Vision AG in response to a complaint regarding liquid discharging from the top of a tank, and spraying golfers on the adjacent golf course. I met with the following people:

- Luann Cave - Human Resources
- John Webb - Employee
- Mark Tinnes - Manager
- Two other employees whose names were not obtained.

After arriving on site I initially met with Ms. Cave who escorted me outside where we met with Mr. Webb. Mr. Webb was asked what was stored in the storage tanks adjacent to the golf course. Per Mr. Webb, it was liquid nitrogen.

Mr. Tinnes arrived and instructed Ms. Cave to return to the office. Mr. Webb returned to work, and Mr. Tinnes than escorted me around. Mr. Tinnes was informed of the complaint and asked about the tanks and liquid nitrogen. Mr. Tinnes indicated that it was only water.

As we walked towards the storage tanks, Mr. Tinnes explained that there was a storage tank for water; and that they never add chemicals to this tank. In regards to how it was filled, Mr. Tinnes explained that the a float system is used to fill the tank. However, the float system was broken. Per Mr. Tinnes, until it is repaired they are operating or filling the tank manually.

Mr. Tinnes was informed that per the complainant, the tank was overflowing between 1700 & 1900. Mr. Tinnes indicated that personnel were on site until 2100. He, Mr. Tinnes, commented that the water wasn't probably turned off until they left.

At the storage tank Mr. Tinnes explained that there was a service line, that ran along the property line with the golf course, from the city main to the tank. Mr. Tinnes pointed to the line that filled the tank.

Observations noted:

1. The water tank was yellow in color with no markings.
2. There was no overflow pipe on the tank.
3. It appeared that the water inlet pipe was below the opening where the overflow pipe or vent should be.
4. There were ~8 white storage tanks within a secondary containment structure.
5. There was a sump hose from the secondary containment structure; and
6. There was a retention basin to the east of the building.

Mr. Tinnes indicated that there is an overflow pipe on the retention basin that can be closed. However, they leave it open. The water from the basin reportedly drains across the golf course. Mr. Tinnes indicated that the water is tested occasionally.

One suggestion that was offered as we, Mr. Tinnes and I, walked towards the office was that they consider marking the water tank as water only, so that anyone on the golf course would know it was only water.

In the office we were joined by two other gentleman were we discussed the complaint, the observations noted, and some suggestions. It was suggested that:

1. They mark the water tank so that it was clearly marked as water only.
2. They ensure that they test any water or liquid contained within the secondary containment prior to pumping the secondary containment structure.
3. They consider closing the valve on the retention basin and allowing stormwater to evaporate.
4. Maintaining a record of when the valve for the retention basin is opened or closed.
5. Maintaining records of when they sample water discharged from the secondary containment structure and/or the retention basin; and the results.

In addition to the suggestions, we discussed draining or discharging water from the storage tanks. It was suggested that they contact the department and speak with wastewater staff prior to discharging any water from a storage tank. They were informed that water stored in a tank was considered wastewater if discharged.

As the visit concluded, they were informed that they would not receive a letter, but that a visit memo would be written and filed.













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Picture Filenames: Vision AG - 04-15-2011 - 1 through 6

xc: Records Section, DNR
Complaint Book