

April 15, 2025

Brad Davison  
Environmental Specialist  
IDNR – Land Quality Bureau  
6200 Park Avenue Suite 200  
Des Moines, IA 50321



**RE: BIENNIAL INSPECTION REPORT – 2025  
BUCHANAN COUNTY SANITARY LANDFILL (CLOSED)  
HLW PN 6032-20A.750**

Dear Mr. Davison,

In accordance with Item 7.d.2) of the Environmental Covenant between IDNR and Buchanan County, Iowa, a biennial inspection of the Buchanan County Sanitary Landfill was personally conducted the morning of April 9, 2025. Tom Halverson, Buchanan County Household Hazardous Waste Center, accompanied me on the inspection. Conditions at the time of the inspection were overcast with light winds and temperatures in the 40's.

Previous biennial inspections have been conducted:

- March 12, 2021, submitted to IDNR on March 19, 2021 (Doc #100170)
- March 27, 2023, submitted to IDNR on March 31, 2023 (Doc #106196)

**Status of the Permit**

The Environmental Covenant was recorded with the Buchanan County Recorder as Instrument 2020-R00293 on January 29, 2020 (Doc #96890). As a result, IDNR SDP Permit Number 10-SDP-01-75C was rescinded in the IDNR letter dated February 6, 2020 (Doc #96945). This letter also served as "notice of completion of the regulated post-closure care period for the Buchanan County Sanitary Landfill".

**Environmental Covenant, Item 7 – Activity and Use Limitations and Terms**

**General Restrictions**

- a. No excavations greater than 2' have been completed on the property covered by the Environmental Covenant since the last biennial inspection was completed.
- b. No waste has been excavated, disrupted, or removed from the closed landfill site.
- c. No drinking water wells have been constructed within the boundaries of the property.
- d. No residences have been constructed within the boundaries of the property.

### Specific Restrictions

*a. Restrictions and use limitations and terms due to continued management of landfill gas:*

- 1) No enclosed structures have been placed or constructed on the landfill cap.
- 2) No controlled burns have been conducted on the property.

*b. Restrictions and use limitations and terms due to continued management of leachate:*

- 1) The leachate control system is being operated and maintained. Leachate collected from the leachate control system is disposed of at the City of Independence Publicly Owned Treatment Works. Additional information on the leachate control system is contained in the biennial Leachate Control System Performance Evaluation that is being submitted with this inspection report.

*c. Restrictions and use limitations and terms related to site access:*

- 1) The landfill entrance is secured by a locked gate. The fencing near the front entrance gate is being maintained.

*d. Restrictions and use limitations and terms related to land use:*

- 1) The integrity of the landfill cap is being maintained. Additional discussion on the landfill cap is contained in the text below.
- 2) This report serves as the Biennial Inspection.

### **Landfill Cap Integrity**

All diversion and drainage systems are in good condition with minimal evidence of erosion. Mr. Halverson reported that terrace intakes are operating as intended.

The landfill vegetation is in good condition. Small bare areas were located around LW-3 and also approximately 60' southeast of LW-3. Staff has previously added mulch and black dirt to areas with thin vegetation and reseeded; however, the persistent small bare areas remain. No erosion was noted in the bare areas. Mr. Halverson and I discussed the option of adding clean rock to the bare areas where vegetation is difficult to establish if the areas start to erode.

The majority of the site was mowed in 2023. Mr. Halverson reported that the site will be mowed again this year. Regular mowing improves site aesthetics and aids in the establishment of desirable vegetation by controlling weeds and tree growth on the

cap. Mowing also makes potential problem areas, such as leachate seeps and erosion rills, easier to observe. Mr. Halverson also reported that the County Roadside Vegetation Management staff helps with vegetation maintenance as needed. They are planning to spray sections of the landfill to control areas where scouring rush is becoming predominant. The majority of these areas are located off of the landfill cap.

One small tree was noted on the cap near a terrace, the tree will be eliminated by mowing.

No erosion was noted on the cap.

### **Additional Comments**

IDNR Field Office #1 visited the site on October 9, 2024 for an Industrial Pretreatment Inspection. The report recommended updating the treatment agreement with the City of Independence as some of the phone numbers/contact information in the current treatment agreement are not current. Mr. Halverson will work with the City on updating the agreement.

Mr. Halverson reported that the pump in MH #3 was replaced and this pump was operating during the inspection. Additional information on the leachate control system is contained in the biennial Leachate Control System Performance Evaluation that is being submitted with this inspection report.

The tile outlet for the sediment basin east of the site (noted as plugged during the 2023 Biennial Inspection) has been repaired. County staff added a trash rack to the sediment basin outlet to protect the tile from debris entering the pipe.

This report is based on observations made at the site at the time of the inspection and the information sources referenced in the report. This report does not reflect typical variations experienced at the site throughout the year or variations in conditions that may be observed at the site at other times.

## **Recommendations**

1. Update the leachate treatment agreement with the City of Independence.
2. Continue regular mowing (currently planned for every other year) to control tree growth and improve vegetation.
3. Continue collection and disposal of leachate as per the Environmental Covenant.
4. Continue to monitor bare areas on the cap. If erosion is noted repair and reseed or add clean rock.
5. Continue to monitor the terrace channels and intakes.
6. Continue to monitor vegetation and erosion and repair as necessary.
7. Continue to monitor diversion and drainage systems and repair as necessary.



cc: Tom Halverson, Buchanan County Sanitary Landfill

