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September 22, 2026

Justin Savage
Clarke County Engineer
Courthouse - 100 South Main
Osceola, IA 50213
ccsrd@clarkecountyia.org

RE: Sanitary Landfill Inspection
Clarke County Sanitary Landfill, 2095 Leisure Drive, Osceola, IA
Permit # 20-SDP-04-94C (closed site)

Dear Mr. Savage:

Enclosed is the report completed by Brenda Smith of the Field Office #5 staff following her inspection of the closed Clarke County Sanitary Landfill.

We believe you will find the report self-explanatory. Please take note of the reminders listed near the end, and address them as soon as possible.

You may contact Mrs. Smith (515-250-4094; brenda.smith@dnr.iowa.gov) or this office with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by Bill Gross
Date: 2026.09.22 14:28:02
-05'00'

Bill Gross
Environmental Specialist Senior, Field Office #5
515-238-7871

c: [Becky Jolly](#) / [Mike Smith](#), Iowa DNR Land Quality Bureau (w/encl.)
Doug Luzbetak, HLW Engineering, dluzbetak@hlwengineering.com (w/encl.)

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

Field Office #5

6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200, Des Moines, Iowa 50321

Phone: (515) 725-0268

FAX: (515) 725-8201

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION**INVESTIGATION DATE****CURRENT:** 6/29/2026**LAST:** 9/28/2023**TO:** Dean Robins, Clarke County Landfill Commission
Courthouse - 100 South Main, Osceola, IA 50213**SUBJECT:** Clarke County Sanitary Landfill Inspection (Closed)
2095 Leisure Drive, Osceola, IA
Permit #20-SDP-04-94C (South Site) [North Site #20-SDP-02-75C - rescinded]**PERSONS CONTACTED:** Justin Savage, Clarke County Engineer (vie email: ccsrd@clarkecountyia.org)**GENERAL:**

The closed Clarke County Sanitary Landfill site is located northwest of Osceola in a limestone mining area (S $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, and SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 2, T72N, R26W). The north unit of the landfill has been closed since October 9, 1994. The south unit has not accepted waste since January 7, 2011. As stated in a December 23, 2019, Iowa DNR letter, the post-closure care period for the north site was ended. The post-closure care period for the south site continues until January 17, 2042.

This investigation focused on the physical condition, site access, and operational maintenance of the closed facility. Groundwater monitoring reports are regularly submitted to the Iowa DNR Land Quality Bureau for review (most recently the 2025 AWQR Doc #115960 and the Spring 2026 Water Quality Notification); therefore, detailed groundwater quality evaluations are excluded from this physical inspection report. At the time of this inspection on June 29, 2026, field observations were recorded from accessible perimeter routes.

OBSERVATIONS:

1. The entrance gate located on the northeast side of the site was locked upon arrival. As noted in prior regulatory and engineering reports, the sign posted at the front gate indicates the landfill is closed; however, the secondary sign containing required Iowa DNR facility details (facility name, SDP permit number, and emergency contact number) remains damaged and had not been replaced.
2. Where visible from accessible paths, the vegetative cover appeared dense across the majority of the cap. Historical bare spots on the upper cap crest and north-facing slopes previously repaired with topsoil remained largely vegetated. However, persistent woody vegetation and small cedar trees remained along the perimeter fence of the leachate lagoon and within the silt fence lines on the north-facing slope above MW-33.
3. I entered via the access road to the north, traversed west toward the leachate lagoon, and then walked diagonally across the hillside/closed cell area back toward the main entrance gate. During this walk, dense and overgrown vegetative cover was observed across the landform. The thick vegetation obscured surface ground conditions, creating a high safety risk for due to the potential presence of historical trench-style landfilling hazards, unmapped drop-offs, and hidden erosion gullies. Consequently, physical traversal across the interior South Cell cap and its immediate surrounding terrain was restricted. Known feature areas previously highlighted in engineering reports—such as the emerging erosion gullies near MW-17 and MW-34—could not be physically inspected or re-evaluated during this visit due to these safety and access constraints.
4. Physical access was fully achieved along the leachate storage lagoon embankment and perimeter fence. The lagoon perimeter fence remained in acceptable structural condition, aside from small cedar trees establishing in the fence line. Visual evaluation of the lagoon confirmed that the liquid level is maintained below the top of the liner slope/anchor trench, providing visible, operational freeboard. No active overtopping, structural slope distress, or surface seeps were observed. Facility

records show approximately 44,489 gallons of leachate were hauled to the Des Moines WRA facility in summer 2023, but no leachate had been removed or hauled from the site in 2024, 2025, or 2026. Available freeboard was measured at 1.15 feet in March 2026. While immediate liquid containment is adequate, current freeboard remains below the standard target buffer of 2.0 feet, indicating that leachate removal should be scheduled to ensure capacity before seasonal wet periods. Leachate conveyance lines were last cleaned on March 26–27, 2025. All leachate head piezometers (LPZ-1 through LPZ-6) continue to demonstrate acceptable head levels (generally under 1 foot).

5. Groundwater monitoring wells and gas probes observed along the accessible northern perimeter road appeared secure and locked. Gas monitoring results remain below actionable levels, and the Spring 2026 Water Quality Notification was submitted in March 2026.

REMINDERS:

- Replace the damaged sign at the entrance gate with one displaying the facility name, SDP permit number, and emergency contact number.
- Coordinate with the Des Moines WRA to haul leachate from the storage lagoon to restore standard freeboard (minimum 2.0 feet).
- Mow the vegetative cover on the landfill cap and clear brush/cedar trees from the lagoon perimeter fence and silt fences to control woody growth, mitigate terrain hazards, and allow safe pedestrian access for complete regulatory inspections.
- Inspect and stabilize the active erosion gullies outside the waste boundary near MW-17 and MW-34 once vegetation is managed to allow safe physical access.
- Submit the required 2026 Financial Assurance documentation to the Iowa DNR Land Quality Bureau upon completion of the FY25 audit.

AUTHENTICATION	
INSPECTOR: Brenda Smith, Environmental Specialist Brenda L. Smith Digitally signed by Brenda L. Smith Date: 2026.09.22 12:56:46 -05'00'	DATE: 9/21/2026
REVIEWER: Bill Gross, Environmental Specialist Senior  Digitally signed by Bill Gross Date: 2026.09.22 14:28:27 -05'00'	DATE: 9/22/2026

PHOTOS – JUNE 29, 2026



NE corner of lagoon



north fence lagoon (small cedar trees)



North slope of south unit



Northeast slope of waste perimeter of south unit



Northwest slope of waste perimeter of south unit



Another view of NW of south unit