



GOVERNOR KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR CHRIS COURNOYER

DIRECTOR KAYLA LYON

OCTOBER 21, 2026

EMAIL ONLY

WINNESHIEK COUNTY SANITARY LANDFILL
2000 140TH AVENUE
DECORAH, IA 52101

ATTN: TJ SCHISSEL, landfill@co.winneshiek.ia.us

SUBJECT: Compliance Evaluation Inspection: Permit No. 96-SDP-01-74P

Dear Mr. Schissel:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Sanitary Disposal Project Inspection report conducted at the Winneshiek County Sanitary Landfill on October 13, 2026, by Jason Gearhart and Megan Heidelbauer of the Field Office #1 staff

We believe you will find the report self-explanatory and strongly encourage you to take action on the requirements and/or recommendations listed at the end of the report.

If you have any questions about the inspection or report, please contact me at 563-920-1840 or jason.gearhart@dnr.iowa.gov.

Sincerely,

Jason Gearhart
Environmental Specialist, FIELD OFFICE #1

c: DNR Solid Waste section, Becky Jolly (e-mail)

Efile: 96 SW Winneshiek Co Landfill 101326 ins jag

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Sanitary Disposal Project Inspection

Permit #: 96-SDP-01-74P

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Facility Name: Winneshiek County Sanitary Landfill

Responsible Official: Mark Vick (WCASWA Chairman)

County: Winneshiek

Address: 201 W Main St., Decorah, IA 52101

Facility Operator: TJ Schissel

Phone: 563-382-2370

Address: 2000 140th Ave., Decorah, IA 52101

Date Last Inspection: 05/12/2026

Phone 319-454-6392

Date This Inspection: 10/13/2026

At the Time of this Inspection:

- **facility personnel present:**

TJ Schissel

- **active**

unit(s): Cell 5 expansion

- **surface conditions:**

Dry

- **ambient**

temperature: 63° F

- **wind direction**

and speed: NW 5- 10 mph

Yes – compliance was being achieved; **No** – compliance was not being achieved,
N/A – not applicable or not observed; **PND** – previously noted deficiency (PND).

I. Documents and Record Keeping:

Yes	No	N/A	PND	Item	Yes	No	N/A	PND	Item
☒	☐	☐	☐	1. Permit/Amendment documents	☒	☐	☐	☐	9. Financial assurance
☒	☐	☐	☐	2. Site exploration report	☒	☐	☐	☐	10. Storm water permit
☒	☐	☐	☐	3. Plans/Specs and QC&A Reports	☒	☐	☐	☐	11. SWA/SWAC documentation
☒	☐	☐	☐	4. Waste screening inspection records	☒	☐	☐	☐	12. Operator Certification
☒	☐	☐	☐	5. Leachate recirculation authorization	☒	☐	☐	☐	13. DOPs
☒	☐	☐	☐	6. Gas monitoring/remediation results	☒	☐	☐	☐	14. ERRAP
☒	☐	☐	☐	7. Groundwater monitoring results	☐	☐	☒	☐	15. Other
☒	☐	☐	☐	8. Closure/Postclosure plans/results					

II. Operating Procedures:

Yes	No	N/A	PND	Item	Yes	No	N/A	PND	Item
☒	☐	☐	☐	1. All weather access road to facility	☐	☐	☒	☐	10. Scavenging and Salvaging
☒	☐	☐	☐	2. Controlled Access at facility	☐	☐	☒	☐	a. scavenging prohibited
☒	☐	☐	☐	a. fencing or other perimeter barriers	☐	☐	☒	☐	b. salvaging authorized
☒	☐	☐	☐	b. entrance gate with lock	☐	☐	☒	☐	c. salvaged material orderly
☒	☐	☐	☐	c. safe/proper on-site traffic patterns	☐	☐	☒	☐	d. salvage removal adequate
☒	☐	☐	☐	3. Signage	☐	☐	☒	☐	11. Animal feeding and grazing
☒	☐	☐	☐	a. facility name and permit number	☐	☐	☒	☐	a. animal feeding prohibited
☒	☐	☐	☐	b. days and hours of operation	☐	☐	☒	☐	b. grazing on final cover limited
☒	☐	☐	☐	c. wastes accepted/not accepted	☒	☐	☐	☐	12. Survey controls and monuments
☒	☐	☐	☐	d. telephone # of resp. official	☒	☐	☐	☐	a. facility and waste boundaries surveyed and marked
☒	☐	☐	☐	4. All weather access road in facility	☒	☐	☐	☐	b. survey monuments established
☒	☐	☐	☐	5. Adequate vehicle queuing	☒	☐	☐	☐	c. stakes clearly marked
☒	☐	☐	☐	6. Certified scale used	☒	☐	☐	☐	13. Fill Sequencing
☒	☐	☐	☐	7. Waste Screening	☒	☐	☐	☐	a. liner system protected
☒	☐	☐	☐	a. random inspections performed	☒	☐	☐	☐	b. slope failure controlled
☒	☐	☐	☐	b. inspection records	☒	☐	☐	☐	c. differential settlement controlled
☒	☐	☐	☐	c. trained personnel	☒	☐	☐	☐	d. run-on and runoff controlled
☒	☐	☐	☐	d. EPA notification procedures	☒	☐	☐	☐	14. Control of Workface
☒	☐	☐	☐	8. Prohibited materials listing	☒	☐	☐	☐	a. size of area controlled
☒	☐	☐	☐	9. Open Burning and Fire Hazards	☒	☐	☐	☐	b. slope is stable
☒	☐	☐	☐	a. open burning prohibited	☒	☐	☐	☐	c. litter control devices used
☒	☐	☐	☐	b. vehicle fueling prohibited within 50 feet of workface	☒	☐	☐	☐	d. vectors controlled
					☒	☐	☐	☐	e. operator at workface

☒	☐	☐	☐	15. Special Waste Handling	☒	☐	☐	☐	23. Run-on/Runoff Control Systems
☒	☐	☐	☐	a. operator familiar with SWAC	☒	☐	☐	☐	a. ponding controlled
☒	☐	☐	☐	16. Waste Fill Cover	☒	☐	☐	☐	b. dikes, ditches, berms & terraces intact
☒	☐	☐	☐	a. daily cover adequate	☒	☐	☐	☐	c. tile lines maintained
☒	☐	☐	☐	b. alternative cover authorized	☒	☐	☐	☐	24. Landfill Equipment
☒	☐	☐	☐	c. scarification of daily cover	☒	☐	☐	☐	a. working properly
☒	☐	☐	☐	d. intermediate cover adequate (30/180 day)	☒	☐	☐	☐	b. backup equipment available
☒	☐	☐	☐	e. final cover maintained	☒	☐	☐	☐	25. Groundwater Monitoring Wells
☒	☐	☐	☐	17. Leachate seeps	☒	☐	☐	☐	a. wells intact
☒	☐	☐	☐	a. seeps identified and controlled	☒	☐	☐	☐	b. caps and locks
☒	☐	☐	☐	18. Leachate recirculation	☒	☐	☐	☐	26. Gas Monitoring Wells/Points
☒	☐	☐	☐	a. composite liner	☒	☐	☐	☐	27. Emergency Procedures
☐	☐	☒	☐	b. RD&D authorization	☒	☐	☐	☐	a. ERRAP available to staff
☒	☐	☐	☐	c. personnel protected	☒	☐	☐	☐	b. emergency numbers posted
☒	☐	☐	☐	d. erosion controlled	☒	☐	☐	☐	28. Final Cover System
☒	☐	☐	☐	e. vegetation maintained	☒	☐	☐	☐	a. final cover over completed areas
☒	☐	☐	☐	19. Site Litter Control	☒	☐	☐	☐	b. seeded
☒	☐	☐	☐	a. on-site litter picked up daily	☒	☐	☐	☐	c. vegetation established
☒	☐	☐	☐	b. offsite litter picked up daily	☒	☐	☐	☐	d. run-on, runoff, and ponding controlled
☒	☐	☐	☐	c. record of why litter not picked up	☒	☐	☐	☐	e. differential settlement controlled
☒	☐	☐	☐	20. Dust Control	☐	☐	☒	☐	29. Other
☒	☐	☐	☐	a. dust controlled as vehicles enter/exit facility					
☒	☐	☐	☐	b. dust controlled on internal roads					
☒	☐	☐	☐	c. dust controlled at the workplace					
☒	☐	☐	☐	21. Mud Control					
☒	☐	☐	☐	a. mud controlled as vehicles enter/exit facility					
☒	☐	☐	☐	22. Leachate Control and Treatment					
☒	☐	☐	☐	a. system operational					
☒	☐	☐	☐	b. head measurement device					
☒	☐	☐	☐	c. seeps controlled					
☐	☐	☒	☐	d. leachate tank maintained					
☒	☐	☐	☐	e. leachate lagoon maintained					
☐	☐	☒	☐	f. POTW agreement					
☐	☐	☒	☐	g. sanitary sewer discharge					
☐	☐	☒	☐	h. NPDES discharge permit					
☐	☐	☒	☐	i. NPDES on-site treatment					

Comments:

AUTHENTICATION

INSPECTOR

Jason Gearhart

Digitally signed by Jason Gearhart

Date: 2026.10.22 06:33:18 -05'00'

Jason Gearhart, Environmental Specialist

REVIEWER

Amber Sauser

Digitally signed by Amber Sauser
Date: 2026.10.21 15:34:19 -05'00'

Amber Sauser, Senior Environmental Specialist

General Description:

On 10/13/2026, I conducted a routine compliance inspection at the Winneshiek County Sanitary Landfill. Megan Heidelbauer, FO1, and TJ Schissel, Operator, were also present.

The Agri-Star fire in Postville (end of July) was a notable event that happened since the last inspection. The Winneshiek Co Landfill received 1,105 tons of meat from August 5-19th.

Record Keeping:

4. Inspection records, training procedures, and notification procedures required in rule 101.108 (455B). [See 101.111 (1) "d"]

Random inspections of incoming loads are conducted, with completed inspection records available for review. Operators are also trained to identify prohibited materials and if a prohibited item is found, the hauler is sent back to the working face to retrieve the item.

6. Gas monitoring results from monitoring and any remediation plans required by rule 101.109 (455B). [See 101.111 (1) "f"]

All gas monitoring activities and associated remediation results are managed by FOTH Engineering.

7. Any demonstration, certification, finding, monitoring, testing, or analytical data required by rule 101.110 (455B). [See 101.111 (1) "g"]

All groundwater monitoring activities and associated remediation results are managed by FOTH Engineering.

9. Stormwater permit [See 60.13 (455B)]

Stormwater permit is current, and weekly SWPPP inspections are being conducted by Mr. Schissel.

10. Special Waste Authorizations and Special Waste Acceptance Criteria [See 102.500 (455B)]

This facility receives special waste from Gemini in Decorah.

13. ERRAP [See 100.14]

ERRAP was readily available on site, and operators are trained to know where it is located.

Operating Procedures:

(4) Telephone number of the official responsible for operation of the facility and the emergency contact person(s)

Yes, there is adequate signage in place. List of prohibited items posted at the scale house.

6.A scale certified by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. [See 101.6(2)]

Yes, the scale was recently certified.

7. Waste screening for prohibited materials [See 101.108(1) "a"]

(1) Random inspections of incoming load

(2) Records of any inspections

(3) Training of personnel to recognize prohibited wastes

(4) Notification to EPA for hazardous wastes

Yes, random weekly inspections are being conducted. Operators are trained to recognize and remove prohibited waste from the working face. Records are being maintained.

9. Open burning and fire hazards [See 101.108(1) "c"]

Open burning is not allowed.

10. Scavenging and salvaging [See 101.108(1) "d" and 101.6(4)]

Scavenging and salvaging are not allowed.

11. Animal feeding and grazing [See 101.108(1) "e"]

Animal grazing is not allowed.

13. Fill sequencing [See 101.108(2) "c"]:

Operating in the "Cell 5 Expansion".

18. Leachate Recirculation in composite cell or with RD & D permit [See 101.108(2) "h"]

This facility recirculates leachate on the landfill cap with sprinklers and uses it to wet the solid waste to aid in compaction.

19. Litter control [See 101.6(6)]

I did not observe off-site litter during the inspection. Records were available showing that they collect litter daily.

22. Leachate collection and treatment [See 101.6(9)]

Leachate has not been hauled to a wastewater plant in over a decade. They no longer maintain a treatment agreement with Decorah but would be able to get a new agreement if it were ever needed.

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS

- Continue picking up litter daily.
- Continue screening loads at random.
- Records must be maintained for at least three years

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- Make repairs to the interior fence as needed.