



December 6, 2017

Reference No. 11115796

Mr. Phil Richard  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
875 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Park Falls, Wisconsin 54552

Dear Mr. Richard:

**Re: Landfill O&M Activity  
Rhineland Landfill (#00686)**

On behalf of the Rhineland Landfill Group (RLG), GHD Services, Inc. (GHD) is informing you of the upcoming O&M work at the Rhineland Landfill in Rhineland, Wisconsin.

## 1. Background

The RLG voluntarily planted hybrid poplar trees and willow trees on the north end of the landfill in 1999 and 2000. The trees cover an area of approximately 7-acres. These trees were planted to provide the benefits of phytoremediation to the groundwater and leachate on the north end of the landfill. Previous studies have been conducted by the RLG, which have determined that the trees significantly reduced the concentrations of ammonia found beneath the trees and in the adjacent surface water. Figure 1 presents the location of the hybrid poplar and willow trees.

During a semi-annual landfill inspection in 2016, GHD noted that a small percentage of the trees were starting to die off. The typical life expectancy of a hybrid poplar tree is 15 to 20 years long, and this forest will soon reach its end of life stage if this proposed maintenance is not performed in the coming year.

## 2. Scope of Work

The RLG has hired firm with a WDNR-Certified Forestry Plan Writer on staff, to coordinate and oversee a logging contractor who will harvest the trees by standard coppice methods. The coppice work will include harvesting nearly all above-ground biomass, leaving only the stump and roots behind. In the coppiced hybrid poplar and willow trees, new tree growth will reemerge from the existing stump and roots.

## 3. Schedule

The work is scheduled to take place during the winter of 2018. Coppicing needs to take place once the trees have gone dormant and pushed most of their leaf nitrogen into their roots for the winter. Therefore, the logging activities will take place after we have had some very cold weather, probably in early January.

Again, this phytoremediation work has been, and still is, a voluntary effort by the RLG, and no formal or informal permitting process has been involved concerning this activity with the Remediation and



Redevelopment (R&R) program. This notification is provided as a courtesy, and we do not ask for or expect a formal review or approval from the R&R program for this activity.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

GHD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Aamot". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Ryan Aamot

RA/sb/4

Encl.

cc: Carrie Miljevich, City of Rhinelander (via email)  
Phil Slowiak, International Paper (via email)  
Brian Heim, International Paper (via email)  
Linda Benfield, Foley & Lardner (via email)  
Bruce White, Barnes & Thornburg (via email)





**LEGEND**

- HYBRID POPLAR AND WILLOW TREES
- APPROXIMATE EDGE OF WASTE
- SITE PROPERTY BOUNDARY



FORMER CITY OF RHINELANDER LANDFILL  
 RHINELANDER, WISCONSIN  
 LANDFILL O & M ACTIVITY

LOCATION OF HYBRID POPLAR AND WILLOW TREES

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Nov 27, 2017

FIGURE 1