

State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Tommy G. Thompson, Governor
George E. Meyer, Secretary
Ronald W. Kazmierczak, Regional Director

647 Lakeland Road
Shawano, Wisconsin 54166
Telephone 715-524-2183
FAX 715-524-3214

September 28, 1999

Mr. Patrick Martin
Martin's Cleaner's
1025 East Green Bay St.
Shawano, WI 54166

COPY

Subject: Non-petroleum Groundwater Contamination at Martin's Cleaners, 1025 East Green Bay St., Shawano, WI

Dear Mr. Martin:

I have received a copy of the letter sent to you by K. Singh and Associates (July 13, 1999) regarding the groundwater contamination believed to be migrating on to your property from the Clark Oil Station to the east. While it is the responsibility of the owners of the Clark Station to address the petroleum related contamination migrating from their property onto yours, there are other, non-petroleum related compounds of concern that were present in the groundwater sample from the monitoring well installed on the Martin Cleaners Property.

The data from this monitoring well indicates that two compounds, not associated with petroleum, were present in the groundwater sample. Specifically, these compounds are Tetrachloroethene (also known as perchloroethylene) and trichloroethene. As you are aware, perchloroethylene is, among other uses, a common dry cleaning solvent. Trichloroethene is another commonly used solvent though its presence may be indicative of an environmental breakdown product of Tetrachloroethene. These compounds were not detected in water samples taken from the Clark Station Property.

The Department has reason to believe, based on the current use of the property and groundwater sample results, that a source of these non-petroleum, chlorinated compounds exists on the Martin's Cleaner's property. Martin's Cleaners may be responsible for restoring the environment at this site under Section 292.11, Wisconsin Statutes (hazardous substances spills law) which states:

“RESPONSIBILITY. A person who possesses or controls a hazardous substance which is discharged or who causes the discharge of a hazardous substance shall take the actions necessary to restore the environment to the extent practicable and minimize the harmful effects from the discharge to the air, lands, or waters of the state.”

This responsibility includes first investigating the extent of the contamination, then selecting and implementing an appropriate remedial action.

Wisconsin Administrative Codes NR 700 through NR 728 establish requirements for emergency and interim actions, public information, site investigations, design and operation of remedial action systems, and case closure. Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 140 establishes groundwater standards for contaminants that reach groundwater.

The Department must be notified of any additional information you possess that can aid in determining

the source of contamination at the above referenced site including:

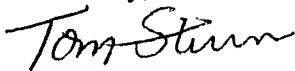
- above ground and underground storage tanks (past and present)
- floor drains and their destinations
- solvent handling
- hazardous waste records
- past spills
- historical land use of the property including locations of former buildings.
- possible off-site sources of the chlorinated compounds

Within 30 days, please submit, in writing, the information requested above and any other information that will help in directing an investigation into the source of the groundwater contamination. Unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the Martin's Cleaners property is not the source of the Tetrachloroethene contamination, you will be directed to perform a site investigation to determine the degree and extent of the problem and develop an appropriate remedial action. If additional investigation and remediation is necessary you will need to hire an environmental consultant to assist you.

I have enclosed information on the "Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Program", a program that may be able to reimburse you for some of the associated investigation and cleanup costs. You should read it carefully to determine if you are eligible and to be sure that you are following the required procedures to remain eligible.

Feel free to contact me at 715-526-4230 if you have any questions regarding this letter or would like to further discuss this matter.

Sincerely,



Tom Sturm

Hydrogeologist

Remediation and Redevelopment Program

E-mail: sturmt@dnr.state.wi.us