

State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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FILE COPY

February 10, 1998

MR WILLIAM GUSTAFSON  
MURPHY OIL USA INC  
2407 STINSON AVENUE  
PO BOX 2066  
SUPERIOR WI 54880

Re: Site Closure - Murphy Oil USA, Inc. UST Site (Case #03-16-000736)

Dear Mr. Gustafson:

On March 14, 1994, the Department of Natural Resources provided a notice to your company that the degree and extent of petroleum contamination at the above named site was required to be investigated and remediated. We have since been informed that the required investigation and remediation has been accomplished.

I recently presented the case for the above mentioned site to the Department's Northern Region Close Out Committee for a determination as to whether or not the case qualified for close out under ch. NR 726, Wis. Adm. Code. The Committee reviewed the information contained in the submittal titled *Site Closure Request - Murphy Oil USA, Inc. Case No. 03-16-000736*, prepared by Eder Associates and dated October 13, 1997. This submittal was prepared in response to Department comments from a previous closure review.

The closure request was based on the results of SESOIL modeling of the site. Based on the information presented, the Committee did not agree that the SESOIL model was an appropriate tool to demonstrate that this site had met the closure criteria in ch. NR 726. Specifically, the Committee had concerns that saturated conditions exist much nearer to the surface at this site than were described in the modeling effort. Since SESOIL is a one-dimensional vertical transport model for the unsaturated zone, the existence of saturated conditions near the surface would invalidate the use of this model for this particular site. However, because the soil sample on which the modeling was based (S-11) was collected at a depth of 11 to 12 feet below ground surface, a depth which the Committee believes to be in the saturated zone, the Committee also determined that the soil cleanup standards of ch. NR 720, Wis. Adm. Code, would not apply.

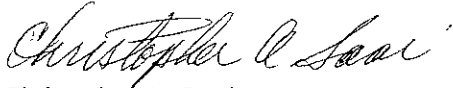
After evaluating the available information, the Committee made a site-specific determination that the 0.193 ug/g concentration of benzene detected in sample S-11 does not pose a threat to human health or the environment. Therefore, it was decided that no further investigative or remedial actions were necessary for the UST site.

Based on the investigative and remedial documentation provided to the Department, it appears that the petroleum contamination at the above named site has been remediated in compliance with the requirements of chs. NR 700 to 724, Wis. Adm. Code. Therefore, the Department considers the case "closed", having determined that no further action is necessary at the site at this time. However, the case may be reopened pursuant to s. NR 726.09, Wis. Adm. Code, if additional information regarding site conditions indicates that contamination on or from the site poses a threat to public health, safety or welfare, or the environment.

You should note that this closure determination applies only to the UST site, and not to any other petroleum-impacted areas of the Murphy Oil USA, Inc. property. The Department has received correspondence from your consultant regarding an adjacent area which has been impacted by previous road oiling activities, and which is being evaluated separately. A closure determination will be made for that area when the degree and extent of contamination have been defined, and the appropriate remedial actions have been completed.

If you have any questions concerning the closure determination or this letter, please do not hesitate to write or call me at 715/372-8593, extension 120. Technical questions regarding the remainder of this property should be directed to Jim Hosch at the Department's Superior office, 715/392-0802.

Sincerely,



Christopher A. Saari  
Hydrogeologist

cc: Jeff King - Eder Associates  
Jim Hosch - DNR Superior  
Mick Michaelsen - DNR Spooner  
Gary Kulibert - DNR Rhinelander