

Case Number 13-C319-016-ARS	Case Title Newton Township – Well Water Contamination
Activity Interview of Robert Hansen	Date of Activity December 20, 2013

Narrative¹

At approximately 10:29 AM on Friday, December 20, 2013, Conservation Warden Robert Stroess, in plain clothes, accompanied by Tauren Beggs of the DNR Remediation and Redevelopment program, arrived at the residence of Robert Hansen, [REDACTED] Manitowoc, WI to interview Hansen about his knowledge of disposal of wastes at the Hecker Road pit owned by the City of Manitowoc. Beggs arranged for them to meet.

This investigation is in reference to **BRRTS Number 02-36-000268** which was provided to Stroess by Roxanne Chronert of the DNR Remediation and Redevelopment program.

Stroess and Beggs were invited inside the residence by Hansen who identified himself verbally, later by a written statement, and later by his Wisconsin driver's license [REDACTED] as follows:

Robert D. Hansen
Male
D.O.B. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Manitowoc, WI 54220
[REDACTED]

They sat at the kitchen table in Hansen's residence. Hansen provided the following information:

- He worked for Mirro in Manitowoc for about two years from approximately 1962 to 1964, during which he was a semi driver.
- During his two years at Mirro, every two weeks, on average, he or one of the other five semi drivers were dispatched by the Mirro dispatcher to pick up the tanker from the north side of the Mirro property. The tanker was connected to a hose which was connected to the anodization plant. The hose allowed waste acid and aluminum remnants from the anodization process to enter the tanker.
- He would get a tractor unit from Mirro building #5 which was a warehouse, hook up the tanker, and travel to the City of Manitowoc gravel pit property west of Hecker Road, north of Silver

1

Warden Reporting Robert Stroess	Date of Report December 20, 2013	Exhibit Reference
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Creek Road, and discharge the contents of the trailer into a bowl-shaped, round, dumping pit east of Silver Creek at the end of a dead-end driveway that led up a hill. The dead-end overlooked Silver Creek, the dumping pit, and the gravel pit area to the south.

- He estimated he made 20 to 25 trips to the Hecker Road site and each time discharged the contents of the tanker.
- He was originally instructed by another Mirro driver – Everett Greetan – on where to discharge the contents of the tanker.
- He described the contents of the tanker as being varied in color, including red and green, had an overall shiny appearance, had a liquid plopping sound similar to the sound made when dumping liquid manure, was irritating to his eyes by making his eyes water when in the presence of it, and it had a chemical odor to it.
- The tanker was approximately 30 feet long but he did not know the capacity of the tanker.
- He drew two diagrams – one of the Mirro property on Mirro Drive and one of the Hecker Road site – which Stroess retained as evidence. Hansen initialed and dated the diagrams, then Stroess and Beggs initialed them as witnesses.
- Hansen reviewed 1961 and 1967 aerial photographs of the Hecker Road site as provided by Beggs. Hansen was certain of the location he dumped the contents of the trailer – as he drew in his diagram – but the location of the driveway appeared to be different in the diagram in comparison to the aerial photographs. It appeared as though there may have been a driveway that was not a gravel driveway that ran north and west off the gravel driveway that currently exists and that was considered the north gate driveway in the 1961 and 1967 photographs. Stroess theorized a non-gravel driveway may not have shown up distinctly on the aerial photographs.
- Hansen offered to visit the Hecker Road site, point out the location where the dead end driveway was, and point out where he discharged the contents of the trailer into the dumping pit.

Hansen provided the following written statement which Stroess wrote down:

I was a military police officer in the U.S. Army, during which I drove heavy equipment. I worked for Aluminum Specialty Company in Manitowoc for about one year. Immediately after that job I worked for two years at Mirro from about 1962 to 1964. I then drove over the road truck throughout Wisconsin for Motor Transport in Sheboygan for 16 years. I was hired at Mirro because of my driving experience in the military. I drove semi for Mirro until the big Mirro strike which I think lasted a month or 1 ½ months. Mirro had six tractors and about two dozen trailers. I normally hauled finished goods from plant to plant or city to city. On average, every two weeks the Mirro dispatcher would send one of us semi drivers – there were six of us drivers – to the north side of the anodization building which was on the north end of the Mirro property to take the acid in the acid tanker to the City of Manitowoc property on the west side of Hecker Road, north of Silver Creek Road. The only other semi driver I remember by name is Everett Greetan. The tanker was connected to the anodization building by a hose that dumped the acid and aluminum remnants from the aluminum anodization process into the tanker. As a driver I would get a tractor out of building #5 which was a warehouse, drive to the tanker, hook it up, ensure that the nut was tightened where the hose connects to the tanker to ensure there was no dripping down the roadway, and drive to the Hecker Road property. I was shown by Everett Greetan where to dump it. I think Everett had done it a long time, didn't want to do it so much, and he told his Mirro supervisor that others should share the load.

Yesterday, I drove to the Hecker Road property in anticipation of the DNR staff coming to speak to me to refamiliarize myself with the site. The current gate – which looked orange or red – is where the north gate from the 1960s had been. In the 1960s there was a sign saying to keep out and that the City of Manitowoc owned it.

The workers in the anodization plant at Mirro wore rubber aprons, rubber boots, eye protection, and respirators. I would have them come out to remove the hose if it wasn't already removed.

When I'd arrive at the dump site I'd enter through the south gate and be let in by the man who I think attended to the animal dispatch building that the police department had there. After a few times going through the south gate, we started to go through the north gate at that attendant's request. I would drive west into the property, turn right and go up a hill. There was a dumping pit at the dead end – which was overlooking but east of Silver Creek. I'd back up the trailer, open the man hole, then use my foot to open the valve. The acid and aluminum remnants would discharge into the circular, bowl-shaped dumping pit. It would take about ½ hour to drain. The waste being discharged was various colors, including red and green, was overall shiny, had a liquid plopping sound similar to dumping liquid manure. The waste was an eye irritant as it made my eyes water and it had a chemical smell to it. I would go into the tractor to avoid most of the odor but it eventually would smell in there. Sometimes I would have to wait an hour due to the dumping pit filling up to capacity and waiting for it to soak in. I could sometimes see overflow from the dumping pit into Silver Creek which was next to the pit. The tanker capacity I'm not sure about but it was approximately 30 ft. long and I know today's tankers are usually 40 ft. or 42 ft. long.

During my approximate two years at Mirro I dumped the acid and aluminum remnant waste at the Hecker Road site approximately 20 to 25 times.

I provided two hand-drawn diagrams to Warden Stroess today.

I never saw anyone else or another company dumping there.

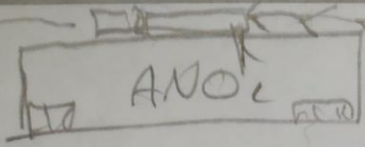
Hansen attempted to read the statement aloud but only got through the first sentence or two before he asked Stroess to read it aloud, stating he had problems with his eyes and would be having surgery on them in the near future. Stroess read the statement aloud and had Beggs follow along. Stroess paused and confirmed the accuracy of the statement with Hansen every few sentences. Hansen agreed that the statement was correct, then he initialed a correction, missed initialing a correction on the first line of the second page, initialed the end of each page, and signed the second page at 1:04 PM. Stroess and Beggs signed as witnesses.

Stroess thanked Hansen for his cooperation and said either he or regulatory staff from the DNR would be in contact with Hansen to arrange for a visit to the Hecker Road site so Hansen could point out the location of the dumping pit.

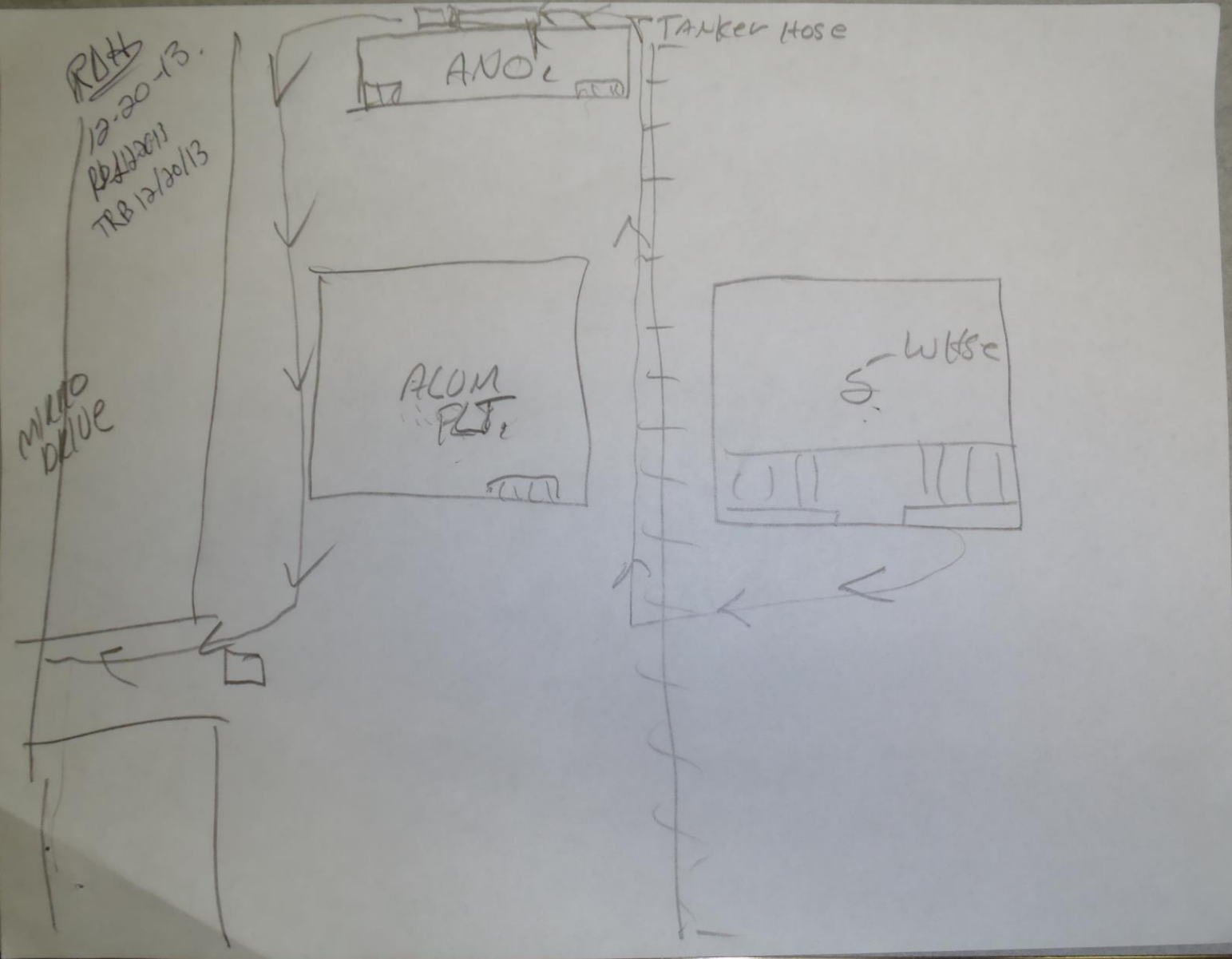
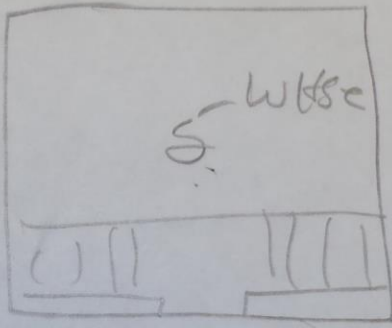
Stroess and Beggs made small talk with Hansen and left at 1:26 PM.

ROH
12-20-13.
RAB
TRB 12/20/13

MILRO
DRIVE



TANKER HOSE



RDK
12-20-13.
RPT 12/20/13
TRB 12/20/13

↑
creek

DEAD END
HILL

DUMPING
PT.
ON HILL

← S

N →

~~ANIMAL~~ HALL
ANIMAL
Bldg.

SO.
GATE

PK

NO.
GATE

Hecker RD. ←

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