

*S. J. Wright*  
1/2/69

Thomas G. Frangos  
Administrator  
For: Avery Wells

Harry A. Denzien  
Regional Sanitarian  
Region No. 1

Onalaska Dump

March 31, 1969

Mr. James Wright, Public Health Sanitarian, District No. 4 Division of Health and I visited the Onalaska dump on Tuesday, March 25, 1969. The dump is located in the southwest part of the city in a marsh area just east of the channel of the Black River a short distance above its juncture with the Mississippi River. Although this dump is not located on the river bank, it is definitely in the floodplain. It has been reported that this area has been inundated during periods of high water in the Black and Mississippi Rivers.

At the time of this visit there was evidence of uncontrolled dumping of refuse in the marsh area, as shown on the enclosed picture. It was also noted that dikes were being constructed in this area for protection against flooding but the dikes were located on the landward side of the dump, thus affording no protection for the dump against flooding.

A discussion of the dump location and the possibility of its flooding was held via telephone with Mr. Jack Zirbes, Onalaska City Engineer on Monday morning, March 31, 1969. This was a three way conversation between Mr. Zirbes, Floyd Stautz, Regional Director, Madison, and myself. Measures for the protection of the dump against flooding were requested at this time (see attached letter).

HAD  
mk  
Attachments

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HAD  
mk  
Attachments

444 West Main Street  
Region No. 1 Office

Division of Environmental Protection  
March 31, 1969

Mr. Jack Zirbes  
City Engineer  
Onalaska, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Zirbes:

This will confirm our telephone conversation of Monday, March 31, 1969 between you, Mr. Floyd Stautz, Regional Director, Division of Environmental Protection, and the writer. The location and protection against flooding of the Onalaska refuse dump was discussed at that time.

A visit was made to the Onalaska dump by Mr. James Wright, Public Health Sanitarian, District No. 4, Division of Health and the writer on Tuesday, March 25, 1969. The dump is located in the southwest part of the City of Onalaska in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 8, T16N, R7W. This area east of the channel of the Black River is low marsh land and is in the floodplain of the Black River.

At the time of this visit refuse was being deposited on the ground in an uncontrolled manner. Dikes were being constructed in the area of the dump for protection against the expected flooding of the Mississippi and Black Rivers. It appeared that these dikes were so located as to not include the dump in the area to be protected from flood waters. Thus, in the event that this area is flooded, refuse material would be carried into the stream by the flood waters.

It was recommended in our telephone conversation that the dump area be completely covered with at least two feet of compacted soil or that the area of the dump be protected from flooding by the construction of earth dikes of sufficient height as to prevent the flood waters from reaching the dump. It is expected that these precautions will be completed prior to the time of the flood crest in this area.

Mr. Jack Zirbes  
March 31, 1969  
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The recently adopted solid waste disposal standards have not yet been received from the printers. However, we are submitting with this letter a copy of the December 30, 1968 draft which was modified somewhat by the final adopted standards. This should be a guide to you until we can send you the actual adopted standards.

If there are any questions or if we can be of assistance to you in any way, please contact this office.

Very truly yours,

Harry A. Denzien  
Regional Sanitarian

Approved this 31st day of March, 1969

Floyd F. Stautz, P. E.  
Regional Director

D:S:k  
cc to:  
Division of Environmental Protection, Attn., Avery Wells

Enclosure



State of Wisconsin

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

*Onalaska - La Crosse Co.  
Solid Waste*

MAR 17 1969

DIVISION OF HEALTH  
DISTRICT 4 OFFICE  
104 STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
250 MORMON COULEE ROAD  
LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN 54601  
PHONE (608) 784-8289

March 14, 1969

Mr. Floyd Stautz, P.E.  
Regional Director  
Division of Environmental Protection  
444 W. Main Street  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Stautz:

A concerned Onalaska citizen called into this office in connection with the Onalaska dump. The dump in question is located in a flood plain near the Black River. Actually, you and I visited this dump during the high water period of 1967. The concern of the citizen was that garbage would again be carried downstream along with the expected flood waters this spring.

I told the above complainant that I would relay his message to you in that we no longer have the solid waste program. I also explained that pollution of surface waters should be dealt with through your division.

Sincerely,

James G. Wright  
Public Health Sanitarian

JGW:vmd

cc: Bureau of Environmental Health

- Immediate covering
- Discontinue dumping until after flood has subsided