SCS ENGINEERS

August 30, 2023 File No. 25220211.01

Mr. Jeff Ackerman Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 3911 Fish Hatchery Road Fitchburg, WI 53711-5367

Subject: Evaluation of Off-Site Groundwater Contamination Highway Cleaners (Former) 1509 Elm Street, Boscobel, Wisconsin BRRTS #02-22-543001

Dear Mr. Ackerman:

On behalf of Mound City Bank, SCS Engineers (SCS) is providing this letter, which summarizes our evaluation for the potential of an off-site source of groundwater contamination to the north of the former Highway Cleaners property. Findings indicate that there is evidence of an off-site source which has resulted in groundwater contamination inconsistent with a release from the former dry cleaner. Based on these findings we propose that no further groundwater sampling be performed, and that Mound City Bank submit for regulatory case closure of the Highway Cleaners case.

BACKGROUND

The Highway Cleaners site is located at 1509 Elm Street on the southwest side of Boscobel (**Figure 1**). The Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRTS) case for this site began after tetrachloroethylene (PCE) was discovered in groundwater at the Citgo Quick Stop (Citgo), which was located at 1406 Elm Street, approximately 300 feet north of the drycleaner site (**Figure 2**).

Dry cleaning operations ceased approximately 30 years ago. Subsequent environmental work related to the dry cleaner case has included installation and sampling of numerous groundwater monitoring wells and soil borings, a soil gas survey, vapor intrusion assessment, mitigation of the source property building, operation of a soil vapor extraction system, and assessing buried utilities as potential pathways for contaminant migration.

PCE was detected in Citgo monitoring wells in February 1998, but only one round of sampling was performed for PCE prior to closure of the Citgo case. In 2005, Highway Cleaners monitoring well MW-4 was installed adjacent to the Citgo property as a part of the dry cleaner investigation. MW-4 and 15 other Highway Cleaners monitoring wells have been sampled up to 12 times between 2005 and 2023. The most recent groundwater flow and isococentration maps are provided as **Figures 3** through **4**.

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OFF-SITE GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION

As more fully summarized in our November 7, 2022, Remedial Action Documentation Report, there appears to be a second source of groundwater contamination to the north of the dry cleaner site based on the following information:

- The maximum PCE concentration in groundwater adjacent to the former Citgo (well MW-4) is an order of magnitude greater than the maximum PCE concentration for other wells, including those installed at the dry cleaner property (MW-1 and MW-2), and the timing of the peak PCE concentration for MW-4 does not appear to be consistent with a release from the dry cleaner. Based on the estimated rate of contaminant migration and date when dry cleaning operations ceased, a peak concentration likely would have occurred several years sooner if the contamination had migrated to MW-4 from the dry cleaner.
- The distribution of PCE in groundwater is not consistent with a release from the drycleaner. Groundwater flows to the northwest. However, the location of historic high PCE concentrations (MW-4) and the shape of the plume suggests there is a separate source north and cross gradient of the dry cleaner.
- The anomalous north and side gradient extent of the plume does not appear related to preferential pathway migration through buried utilities, such as sewers. The sanitary lateral at the former dry cleaning property does not connect to the City's sanitary sewer line that flows north along Elm Street. It connects to a line that flows west. It also seems unlikely that the sewers would be a preferential pathway based on the sewer depths relative to groundwater.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Site investigation, interim actions, and remedial actions have been performed to address contamination related to a release of dry cleaning solvent at the former Highway Cleaners property. Investigation has identified what appears to be a second source of PCE, unrelated to the dry cleaner. While Mound City Bank did not cause the contamination from the dry cleaner, or cause, possess, or control the second source of contamination discussed in this letter, they have complied with regulatory requirements and have investigated and cleaned up the contamination to the extent practicable.

We request that the Department agree that no additional groundwater investigation is necessary related to the former Highway Cleaners property given the likelihood of an off-site source of PCE. As a result, Mound City Bank would submit for regulatory case closure.

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Please contact Robert Langdon at 608-212-3995 if you have any questions concerning this letter.

Sincerely,

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Robert Langdon Senior Project Manager SCS Engineers

REL/AJR/RT

cc: Jeff Miesen, Mound City Bank

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Ray Tierney, PG Vice President SCS Engineers

Attachments: Figure 1 – Site Location Map Figure 2 – Site Plan Figure 3 – Water Table Map, July 2023

- Figure 4 Potentiometric Surface Map, July 2023
- Figure 5 PCE Isoconcentration Map, July 2023

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Figures

- 1 Site Location Map
- 2 Site Plan
- 3 Water Table Map, July 2023
- 4 Potentiometric Surface Map, July 2023
- 5 PCE Isoconcentration Map, July 2023



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