

November 5, 2019

Mr. Darin Baratka
Phillips Plating Corporation
984 N. Lake Avenue
Phillips, Wisconsin 54555

Subject: Requirements for Wis. Admin. Code Chapter NR 716 Site Investigation -
Including PFAS Sampling Requirements
Phillips Plating, 984 North Lake Avenue, Phillips, WI
BRRTS #: 02-51-559634

Dear Mr. Baratka:

On October 3, 2019, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reviewed the *Site Update* letter report submitted for the above-named site by REI, dated September 5, 2019. The report recommended the installation of additional piezometers downgradient of the Phillips Plating facility. The DNR concurs that additional sampling points are needed to define the extent of contamination horizontally and vertically. Piezometers should be installed adjacent to MW11, MW15, and MW10/PZ3. A staff gauge should also be installed in Elk Lake to aid in determining the groundwater/surface water relationship. Future reports should also include piezometric groundwater flow maps.

In addition, the DNR has identified the Phillips Plating Corporation site as potentially being a source for per- and polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). DNR believes this emerging contaminant may be present in soil and groundwater on your property identified above. The DNR has regulatory authority to ask responsible parties to evaluate hazardous substance discharges and environmental pollution including emerging contaminants:

- Wis. Stat. § 292.01(3) "Discharge" means, but is not limited to, spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying or dumping.
- Wis. Stat. § 292.01 (4) "Environmental pollution" means contaminating ... air, land, or waters of the state or making the same injurious to public health ...
- Wis. Stat. § 292.01(5) "Hazardous substance" means any substance ... which may pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment because of its quantity, concentration or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics ...

Background

This site has been occupied by an electroplating facility since 1969. An open contamination case, Phillips Plating Co. Inc., exists with the DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment Program and is being tracked as BRRTS #: 02-51-559634. Soil and groundwater contamination resulted from a hazardous substance discharge of metals. The use of PFAS have been associated with plating operations, therefore this site may be a source of PFAS contamination.

Site Investigation

Information previously provided for this facility indicates a discharge of hazardous substances from plating activities. As stated above, plating operations have been historically linked to PFAS use and/or manufacture. Site investigation scoping (Wis. Admin. Code § NR 716.07) and the site investigation work plan (Wis. Admin. Code § NR 716.09) require an evaluation of the history of the facility, previous discharges, and uses on the site that may be associated with discharges of hazardous substances.

The DNR has the authority under the Wis. Admin. Code NR 700 series to require the evaluation of PFAS at this site. According to Wis. Admin. Code § NR 716.09, the DNR requires that you submit a site investigation work plan that includes an assessment of PFAS, and per Wis. Admin. Code § NR 716.07 (4), all environmental media affected or potentially affected by the contamination must be evaluated.

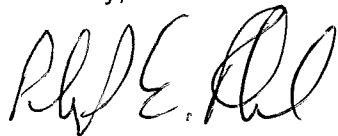
As stipulated in Wis. Admin. Code § NR 716.07 and Wis. Admin. Code § NR 716.09, the work plan should include a written evaluation of potential PFAS compounds that were historically or are presently produced, used, handled, or stored at the site. The evaluation should include any available information on whether any products containing PFAS were utilized in any production process services, the duration of PFAS use, the type of PFAS utilized, and any areas of the site where PFAS may have been used, stored, or discarded. The site investigation work plan must include a groundwater sampling program for evaluating PFAS compounds at the site.

Schedule

In addition to the ongoing site investigation activities, the DNR is requesting that you submit a site investigation work plan for PFAS by December 5, 2019.

The DNR appreciates your efforts to restore the environment at this site. If you have any questions regarding anything outlined in this letter, or would like to arrange a meeting, please contact me, the DNR Project Manager, at 715-762-1352, or at philip.richard@wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,



Philip E. Richard
Hydrogeologist
Remediation & Redevelopment Program

cc: Ken Lassa-REI (via email)