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Nekoosa, WI 54457-1422
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Mr. Pat Collins, Regional Spill Coordinator
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
890 Spruce Street
Baldwin, WI 54002

March 15, 2019

Mr. Collins:

Subject: Domtar A. W. LLC – Nekoosa Mill
Spill Report – March 3, 2019 Spill of Weak Wash
Spill # 13645, ID20190303WC72-1

This letter is a follow-up to our previous phone conversation and contact with State Spill Hotline staff on March 3, 2019. On that date, we reported a spill of process wastewater from our facility, located at 301 Point Basse Avenue, Nekoosa, WI. We estimate that no more than 2000 gallons of the process wastewater reached our containment curbing in our production area courtyard, and up to 200 gallons of this wastewater breached the city of Nekoosa storm sewer system. This storm sewer system directly drains to the Wisconsin River.

The incident occurred as a result of excessive draining of a process water tank which contained weak wash. Weak wash is a high-pH wastewater which is a byproduct of the kraft recovery process. Contributing to the root cause of this event was the apparent scaling up of the wastewater collection piping in the production courtyard area. This resulted in the lack of adequate drainage capacity to contain the rapid rate of tank draining of the weak wash.

When we discovered that the wastewater was backing up in the courtyard and overflowing the curbing, we immediately brought in wet lap pulp and placed it on the curbed areas to contain the discharge. We also placed wet lap pulp over the storm drains along Point Basse Avenue, and created containment barricades to pond the wastewater. Vacuum trucks were brought in to remove all of the remaining ponded water.

Refer to the attached facility layout drawing for additional detail on the location of the spill and the storm sewer system.

In response to this incident, we are establishing better practices for controlling tank draining activities for this area of the mill, and reviewing options to improve the capability of the sewer drainage in the courtyard.

We believe that our immediate response actions effectively minimized the potential environmental impacts from this spill, and that no further action is necessary to respond to this event.

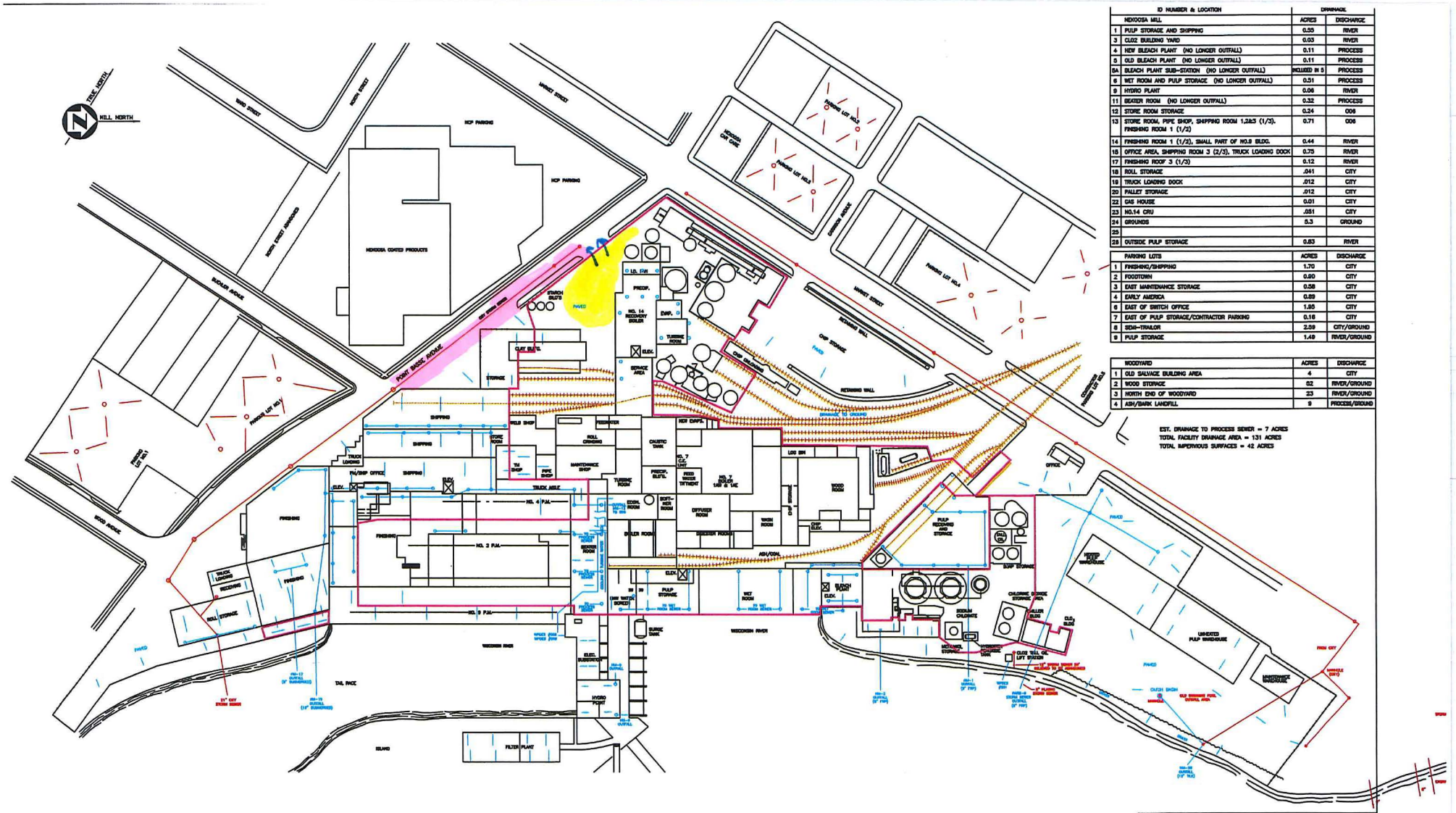
Please contact me at (715) 886-7711 if you have any questions regarding this incident.

Sincerely,

David S. Ulrich
Environmental Manager

DSU:krw

cc: Mr. Peter Pfefferkorn, Wastewater Engineer, Department of Natural Resources, 473 Griffith Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494


TRUE NORTH
MILL NORTH
WARD STREET
NORTH STREET
MARKET STREET
NORTH STREET EXTENDED
NEKOOSA COATED PRODUCTS
HCP PARKING
PARKING LOT NO.1
PARKING LOT NO.2
PARKING LOT NO.3
PARKING LOT NO.4
PARKING LOT NO.5
PARKING LOT NO.6
PARKING LOT NO.7
PARKING LOT NO.8
PARKING LOT NO.9
PARKING LOT NO.10
PARKING LOT NO.11
PARKING LOT NO.12
PARKING LOT NO.13
PARKING LOT

Domtar WTM

Legend

- Facility-wide Site

Notes

0.1 0 0.03 0.1 Miles

NAD_1983_HARN_Wisconsin_TM

1: 1,980

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