From: Steve Benaszeski
To: Saari, Christopher A - DNR
Subject: RE: Deed Notice Removal
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 2:46:01 PM
Attachments: image004.png
image005.png
image002.png
image003.png
image001.png
image006.png

Your response is offensive. Your solutions are not cost effective. Well documented research about microorganisms that eliminate these compounds over time is conclusive. Each water sample since 1993 proves that, culminating in the recent sample proving that NO VOLATILE COMPOUNDS EXIST. I am saving your correspondence where you admitted that NO VOLATILE COMPOUNDS EXIST in the water. However the trip down memory lane about water from 1993 when the site was damaged by our own State Department of Transportation over 30 years ago is irrelevant. Constant, rapid improvement was shown in every test after that and since that time, we installed a brand new well which also has been proven to have good water. Although bloated government agencies have unlimited resources , property owners do not have an endless pit of money to burn. No one stopped me from buying the property over 20 years ago and no one from the DNR cared about my family who lived there and drank the water for 20 years. The previous 2 owners didn't play your game but did NOT have Deed Notice slapped on the property. I'm not sure why this discrimination is directed only toward me, but I will find out. I don't have the option of selling this at a loss due to government red tape. Your agency has been in the news lately for putting tax paying property owners through this kind of exercise. I suggest that you examine your conscience. Rather than harassing a property owner with a perfect water test, maybe you should invest your time showing concern for property owners near Menominee and Chetek who can't swim in the green water problem that you have failed to solve. Instead of insuring a steady source of income to the "consulting agencies" that you're in bed with, I want you to have a more lean, economical agency that doesn't waste time and money trying to bankrupt land owners. Get in touch with me about a date and time that I can come to your office to bring a hard copy of the recent water test. I will be happy to stay with you until the paperwork is completed to remove the deed notice from my property. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer

On Tue, Jan 28, 2025 at 10:36 AM, Saari, Christopher A - DNR <Christopher.Saari@wisconsin.gov> wrote:

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr. Benaszeski,

The DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment Program has received your message below, and also the sample results from the drinking water well which were analyzed by Northern Lakes Service, submitted in a separate email message. I am glad to see that there were no volatile organic compounds detected in the drinking water.

However, to be clear, this information alone is not sufficient to update the Notice of Contamination that was recorded on the property's deed in June 2024. As was explained to you in multiple telephone conversations with myself and DNR Project Manager Carrie Stoltz (now retired) in the fall of 2024, an investigation that includes sampling soil and groundwater around the former underground storage tanks is needed to determine the degree and extent of residual contamination.

The DNR understands that contractors working for DOT removed the tanks to address an encroachment issue in 1993, and according to documents in our case file (hard copies shared with you last fall), there was a strong petroleum odor noted in the soil beneath those tanks. The report documenting the tank removal work also stated that, "*An attempt to excavate impacted soils was not conducted due to the proximity of USH 8 and the foundation of the Four Seasons Tavern, as well as the instability of the native soils*."

There was also a documented petroleum impact to the former drinking water well that served the property, indicating that the contamination had migrated to groundwater. Because no follow-up investigation or cleanup work has been conducted since those tanks were removed, the site remains out of compliance with the requirements of state statutes and administrative codes. The lack of compliance at the site was explained to you in several letters from the DNR in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

The DNR will be unable to update the Notice of Contamination until the necessary investigation and potential cleanup actions have been completed. Once the work has been completed, the DNR can evaluate the documentation through a fee-based review; this form provides a starting point for that process: Resources for environmental professionals | | Wisconsin DNR

Feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Chris Saari
Northern Region Team Supervisor – Remediation and Redevelopment Program
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
2501 Golf Course Rd.
Ashland, WI 54806
Phone: (715) 208-4004
Christopher.Saari@Wisconsin.gov

dnr.wi.gov
Our core values include professionalism, integrity, and customer service.
Please visit our survey to provide feedback on your experience interacting with any DNR employee.

From: Steve Benaszeski <venuslakestudios@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 1:47 AM
To: Saari, Christopher A - DNR <Christopher.Saari@wisconsin.gov>; laonaschool@gmail.com
Subject: Deed Notice Removal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

[redacted]

Steve Benaszeski
N11947 County Road L
Tomahawk, Wi. 54487
(715) 550-8368
venuslakestudios@yahoo.com

January 26, 2025

Chris Saari: National Resources Dept of Ashland
2501 Golf Course Rd.
Ashland, Wi, 54806
(715) 208-4004
Christopher.Saari@wisconsin.gov

Mr. Saari,

I'm writing to inform you that the recent water test was completed for the property at 1800 Hwy 8, Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501. The results will be forwarded to your email from Northern Lake Service Inc. in Crandon, Wisconsin.

I will appreciate your call to confirm your receipt of the results which show that the water is clean and passes all levels of safety for drinking. The tests confirm that volatile compounds are not detected.

I was informed by my realtor on August 15th that you placed a deed notice on the property because gas tanks were removed by the Department of Transportation 31 years ago, in 1993. I have documentation and recorded voice testimonies from the professional firm that did the excavation work in 1993. He was kind enough to go into great detail about their careful removal of the dry tanks that were already filled with sand. His agency hauled the tanks away, removed all the surrounding soil and replaced it with 6-10 truckloads of fresh, clean dirt. Since that time 2 different parties operated restaurants a decade apart. Also, a brand new drilled well was installed in 2011 with the water being certified as safe by the well drillers and professional water testing agencies. We installed a new first rate septic system this fall on the opposite side of the property. I was happy to hear from the soil tester that we have very sandy soil with the best drainage for wells, septic systems and successful filtration.

I'm looking forward to your call to tell me that the deed notice has been removed from the property. Thank You for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Steve Benaszeski

[redacted]

Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer