State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
1701 North 4th Street
Superior WI 54880

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WISCONSIN
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

October 10, 2017

Mr. Steve Benjaminson

2632 Morris Thomas Road

Duluth, MN 55811

Subject: Reported Contamination at:
310 Belknap Street
Superior, WI 54880
DNR BRRTS Activity # 03-16-579942

Dear Mr. Benjaminson:

On August 8, 2017, TRC, on behalf of Wisconsin Department of Transportation, notified the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that petroleum (fuel oil) had been detected at the site described above.

Based on the information that has been submitted to the DNR regarding this site, we believe you are responsible for investigating and restoring the environment at the above-described site under Section 292.11, Wisconsin Statutes, known as the hazardous substances spill law.

This letter describes the legal responsibilities of a person who is responsible under section 292.11, Wis. Stats., explains what you need to do to investigate and clean up the contamination, and provides you with information about cleanups, environmental consultants, possible financial assistance, and working cooperatively with the DNR or the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP).

Legal Responsibilities:

Your legal responsibilities are defined both in statute and in administrative codes. The hazardous substances spill law, Section 292.11 (3) Wisconsin Statutes, states:

- RESPONSIBILITY. A person who possesses or controls a hazardous substance which is discharged or who causes the discharge of a hazardous substance shall take the actions necessary to restore the environment to the extent practicable and minimize the harmful effects from the discharge to the air, lands, or waters of the state.

Wisconsin Administrative Code chapters NR 700 through NR 754 establish requirements for emergency and interim actions, public information, site investigations, design and operation of remedial action systems, and case closure. Wisconsin Administrative Code chapter NR 140 establishes groundwater standards for contaminants that reach groundwater.

Steps to Take:

The longer contamination is left in the environment, the farther it can spread and the more it may cost to clean up. Quick action may lessen damage to your property and neighboring properties and reduce your costs in investigating and cleaning up the contamination. To ensure that your cleanup complies with Wisconsin's laws and administrative codes, you should hire a professional environmental consultant who understands what needs to be done. The following information provides the timeframes and required steps to take. Unless otherwise approved by DNR in writing you must complete the work by the timeframes specified.

1. Within the next **30 days,** by November 10, 2017 you should submit written verification (such as a letter from the consultant) that you have hired an environmental consultant. If you do not take action within this time frame, the DNR may initiate enforcement action against you.

2. Within **60 days,** by December 10, 2017 you must submit a work plan for completing the investigation. The work plan must comply with the requirements in the NR 700 Wis. Adm. Code rule series and should adhere to current DNR technical guidance documents.

3. You must initiate the site investigation within 90 days of submitting the site investigation work plan. You may proceed with the field investigation upon DNR notification to proceed. If the DNR has not responded within 30 days from submittal of the work plan, you are required to proceed with the field investigation. If a fee for DNR review has been submitted, the field investigation must begin within 60 days after receiving DNR approval.

4. Within 60 days after completion of the field investigation and receipt of the laboratory data, you must submit a Site Investigation Report to the DNR or other agency with administrative authority. For sites with agrichemicals contamination, your case will be transferred to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection for oversight.

5. Within 60 days after submitting the Site Investigation Report, you must submit a remedial actions options report (RAOR). The RAOR shall include an evaluation of Green and Sustainable Remediation opportunities as required by s. NR 722.09 (2m), Wis. Adm. Code.

Sites where discharges to the environment have been reported are entered into the Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System ("BRRTS"), a version of which appears on the DNR's internet site. You may view the information related to your site at any time (**http://dnr.wi.gov/botw/SetUpBasicSearchForm.do**) and use the feedback system to alert us to any errors in the data.

If you want a formal written response from the department on a specific submittal, please be aware that a review fee is required in accordance with ch. NR 749, Wis. Adm. Code. If a fee is not submitted with your reports, you must complete the site investigation and cleanup to maintain your compliance with the spills law and chapters NR 700 through NR754. **The timeframes specified above are required by rule, so do not delay the investigation of your site.** We have provided detailed technical guidance to environmental consultants. Your consultant is expected to know our technical procedures and administrative rules and should be able to answer your questions on meeting cleanup requirements.

All correspondence regarding this site should be sent to:

John T. Hunt
Remediation and Redevelopment Program
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
1701 North 4th Street
Superior, WI 54880
johnt.hunt@wisconsin.org

Unless otherwise directed, submit one paper copy and one electronic copy of plans and reports. To speed processing, correspondence should reference the BRRTS and FID numbers (if assigned) shown at the top of this letter.

Site Investigation and Vapor Pathway Analysis

As you develop the site investigation work plan, we want to remind you to include an assessment of the vapor intrusion pathway. Chapter NR 716, Wisconsin Administrative Code outlines the requirements for investigation of contamination in the environment. Specifically, s. NR 716.11(3) (a) requires that the field investigation determine the "nature, degree and extent, both areal and vertical, of the hazardous substances or environmental pollution in all affected media". In addition, section NR 716.11(5) (g) and (h) contains the specific requirements for evaluating the presence of vapors in the sub-surface as well as in indoor air.

You will need to include documentation with the Site Investigation Report that explains how the assessment was done. If the vapor pathway is being ruled out, then the report needs to provide the appropriate justification for reaching this conclusion. If the pathway cannot be ruled out, then investigation and, if appropriate, remedial action must be taken to address the risk presented prior to submitting the site for closure. The DNR has developed guidance to help responsible parties and their consultants comply with the requirements described above. The guidance includes a detailed explanation of how to assess the vapor intrusion pathway and provides criteria which identify when an investigation is necessary. The guidance is available at: http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/rr/RR800.pdf.

Additional Information for Site Owners:
We encourage you to visit our website at http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/, where you can find information on selecting a consultant, financial assistance and understanding the cleanup process. You will also find information there about liability clarification letters, post-cleanup liability and more.

If you have questions, call the DNR John T. Hunt at (715) 392-3126 for more information or visit the RR web site at the address above.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

John T. Hunt
Hydrogeologist
Remediation & Redevelopment Program

cc: Kathleen Shafel, DNR (email)