



January 6, 2015

Charles Preisler  
N1961 County Road T  
Hortonville WI 54911

Subject: Site Inspection Summary and Required Follow Up

Dear Mr. Preisler:

On September 12, 2014 the Department of Natural Resources (Department) and Outagamie County Land Conservation Department met with you and inspected your farm operation located at N2247 CTH T in the NE¼ SE¼ of S4 T21N R15E in the Town of Hortonville, Outagamie County. During the site inspection the Department identified several follow up actions needed at your operation that are listed in the enclosed site inspection report.

The Outagamie County Land Conservation Department is willing to help you with repairs to the waste transfer system and manure storage. **Note that the cost share agreement you signed for the state funds requires you to operate and maintain these cost shared practices for 10 years following installation.** You should immediately contact Greg Baneck or Jim Poweleit at (920) 832-5073 to start planning for these repairs and complete them as soon as possible.

The Targeted Runoff Management grant that the Outagamie County Land Conservation Department secured on your behalf has funds remaining that may be used to address the remaining runoff concerns at your operation. The Department strongly encourages you to continue working with Outagamie County to install permanent measures to eliminate or significantly reduce the risk of contaminated runoff to the closed depression west of your operation. The Department approved a one-time extension of this grant until December 31, 2015 and all practices must be installed before then.

I will contact you in spring 2015 to schedule another inspection of your operation to evaluate your progress at meeting the follow up actions listed in the enclosed report. In the meantime, please contact me at (920) 662-5419 or [ErinE.Hanson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:ErinE.Hanson@wisconsin.gov) if you have any questions about this letter or the site inspection report.

Sincerely,

Erin Hanson  
Nonpoint Source Coordinator – Northeast Region

Enclosure: Site Inspection Report (12/30/14)

Electronic cc: Amy Callis, Liz Heinen, Rick Stoll, Linda Talbot – DNR  
Greg Baneck, Jim Poweleit – Outagamie County Land Conservation Department  
Lynn Szulczewski – NRCS



## **Inspection Report – Well Contamination Investigation (10/03/14, revised 12/30/14)**

Date: September 12, 2014  
Farm Owner: Charles Preisler  
Site Address: N2247 CTH T, NE¼ SE¼ S4 T21N R15E, Town of Hortonia (Outagamie County)  
DNR Staff: Erin Hanson, Nonpoint Source Coordinator – Northeast Region

On September 12, 2014 Hanson, Jim Poweleit and Greg Baneck (Outagamie Land Conservation Department) met with Charles Preisler at his farm located at N2247 CTH T, Hortonville WI. The purpose was to follow up on a report of *E. coli* in a neighbor's private drinking water well that was suspected to be from manure contamination. Text and photos on the following pages of this report provide additional detail about the list of follow up actions identified by Baneck, Poweleit and Hanson during the site inspection.

### **Follow Up Actions**

- 1) Preisler will stop using the temporary, inadequate manure transfer pipe and return both manure transfer systems to a functional status.
- 2) Preisler and Outagamie County will repair joints in new manure storage to ensure no further manure leaks from the storage. Outagamie County will examine the manure storage at that time to identify if additional repair is needed.
- 3) Preisler will work with Outagamie County to continue planning and install runoff controls for other areas of concern on the farm. Work may be completed with funding from the existing TRM grant that expires in December 2015.
- 4) Hanson will forward well testing information to Preisler (by text) and Outagamie County (by email) when it is available from Liz Heinen (DNR Water Supply Specialist). – **Done**. Microbial Source Tracking results obtained 10/06/14 did not indicate bovine waste in the well water sample.
- 5) Hanson will contact Heidi Schmitt Marquez (DNR Wastewater Specialist) to identify if industrial waste or septage spreading may be related to the well contamination issues. – **Done**

Photo 1. Site overview showing approximate locations of contaminated well (red W), old abandoned well (black W), new manure storage and temporary transfer pipe (black arrow) and approximate manure runoff paths (red arrows). 2014 aerial photo from Outagamie County GIS website.





### Old Well

There was an old well at the farm, near the driveway by the back of the home. Poweleit told Hanson that the well had been abandoned by a well drilling company in 2013 as part of recent improvements at the farm. Preisler said that his current well that serves the farm tested safe in July 2014.

### Manure Transfer Systems

In 2013 federal EQIP funds and a state TRM grant provided cost share for new manure storage and associated waste transfer systems at the farm. Poweleit worked on the design and construction and said construction met the NRCS 313 standard. Preisler said the manure transfer pump in the barn doesn't work properly so he has been using a temporary pipe to direct liquid manure to the storage (photos 2 and 3) and land spreading solid manure. Hanson saw spilled manure at the southwest corner of the barn where Preisler had been loading spreaders and a clear runoff path from the barn to the west (photo 4). Baneck and Poweleit said that there is a closed depression in the field to the west and bedrock is shallow in the general area, indicating that the manure runoff is a serious runoff concern.

Hanson told Preisler that he was required to maintain the manure transfer systems as designed and installed because of the cost share requirements and concerns about contaminated runoff. Outagamie County offered to work with Preisler if he needed assistance with the repairs.



Photo 2: South end of temporary manure transfer system from the barn to manure storage. Preisler needs to repair the manure transfer systems and stop using the temporary transfer pipe.



Photo 3: North end of temporary manure transfer pipe as it enters the manure storage.



Photo 4: Manure solids at southeast corner of the barn. Runoff drains through the vegetated area seen in the photo and to the west.



#### Manure Storage

Preisler has a new concrete manure storage installed in fall of 2013 with federal EQIP funds and a state TRM grant. Preisler expressed his displeasure with the storage, especially about the odors from it that bother him and his neighbors. Baneck and Poweleit discussed some options for reducing odor from the storage.

Preisler said the storage has been leaking from the concrete joints since it was installed. Poweleit, Baneck, and Hanson walked the perimeter of the storage and identified staining and ponded liquids on the ground adjacent to the storage in many locations (photos 4 and 5). Baneck said that repairs could be completed with a caulk that is injected into the cracks. Baneck and Poweleit offered to work with Preisler to repair the manure storage. Hanson told Preisler that this was required as part of the cost share requirements and concerns about contaminated liquids seeping into groundwater.

Photos 5 and 6: Dark stains and ponded manure at two of many similar locations on the exterior of the manure storage.





#### Other Runoff Concerns

Preisler had previously worked with Outagamie County to install a grassed filter strip south of the heifer lots along Schultz Rd. He indicated that he was also willing to work with them to address remaining areas of concern on the farm, including runoff from the steer lot immediately south of the barn. Approximately 50-60 steers are kept on the earthen lot with no runoff controls. Contaminated runoff drains primarily to the west on both the north and south of the feed storage area (photos 1, 7 & 8). Feed is kept in silage bags on bare ground with no leachate runoff controls. Improved management of these areas could reduce the risk of runoff. Outagamie County is also willing to apply remaining TRM grant funds towards a permanent solution.



Photo 7: Ponded runoff from the steer lot in the driveway that eventually drains towards a closed depression to the west.



Photo 8: Looking east towards the steer lot (photo right) from the feed storage area. Runoff from this area also drains towards a closed depression to the west.

#### Other potential sources of groundwater contamination

After leaving the Preisler farm Hanson drove on Schultz Rd, County Road T, and other local roads in the immediate vicinity to determine if there were other potential sources of groundwater contamination in the area. All adjacent fields were still cropped and none appeared to have recent manure applications. Hanson did observe active spreading of industrial waste on Lonely Road and shared the information with Schmitt Marquez for follow up. Hanson did not think the spreading was likely to be related given the distance from the impacted well.