

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

State of Wisconsin

DATE: May 16, 1997

TO: Bruce Urben - NER

FROM: Jennifer Huffman - NER *JBA*

SUBJECT: Request for Funding for FY97-98, Gordon Schneider Property, 476 E. Main Street, Chilton, Calumet County, WDNR BRR ID# 02-08-000632

Background: A limited Wisconsin Environmental Fund geoprobe investigation was conducted on the Schneider property in June 1995 and identified highly contaminated groundwater and soil consisting of TCE, PCE, and other chlorinated solvents. The highest concentrations quantified in groundwater samples included 9,700 ppb TCE, 280 ppb PCE, and 75 ppb vinyl chloride. The investigation was conducted in response to TCE concentrations being detected in monitoring wells on an adjoining property.

The Schneiders operated an engine repair shop/salvage yard, however, after a fire in 1988, the property was left in ruins. After failure of the Schneiders to clean up after the fire, the City of Chilton razed the buildings and cleared the property. The property is now vacant and has been tax delinquent since approximately 1989. The back taxes owed are in excess of \$10,000. The Schneiders are now operating another salvage yard in Manitowoc County.

A nearby (and presumably downgradient) municipal well for the City of Chilton (Well #5) has had historic detections of the same chlorinated solvents as found on the Schneider property. Vinyl chloride concentrations in the well have been greater than drinking water standard and the well was taken off line in 1995. The City intends to put the well back on line and blend the raw water with two other unaffected municipal wells. There is further concern that renewed use of the contaminated well will draw contaminated water from the Schneider property toward the municipal well further spreading the contamination and increasing the contaminant concentrations at the municipal well. We do not know if there is a hydraulic connection between the Schneider property and the municipal well. The municipal well is shallow and cased into the top of Niagaran Dolomite aquifer. Groundwater samples collected from geoprobe borings on the Schneider property during the WDNR limited investigation have documented TCE contamination as deep as 25 feet in the overburden. Drilling in the bedrock aquifer was not conducted.

Environmental Fund monies were requested during the last State fiscal year, however, no funding was available. No sampling has been conducted since 1995.

Site Prescore: 27.22 On July 13, 1995, Annette Weissbach (former Project Manager) called Mr. Schneider and explained the results of our limited investigation and that he was required to perform an environmental investigation. Mr. Schneider told Annette that he was not going to respond. An RP letter requesting action was sent to the Schneiders on July 25, 1995, however, we have received no response.

Priority: The site has a high priority in NER because of its potential impact on the municipal well and its known impact to an adjoining property. The field investigation should be finished by December 1997.

Objectives: To identify the source area, determine the degree and extent of contamination both on and off site, determine horizontal and vertical hydraulic gradients, and to determine if there is a hydraulic connection between the Schneider property and the municipal well. These areas were not investigated during the geoprobe investigation. Remedial alternatives, including interim actions (if necessary) will also be identified.

Public Information Provided: Several meetings have been held between the DNR and City officials regarding the site and the municipal well. A report by DNR on the 1995 investigation was provided to the Mayor of Chilton.

Estimated Cost: \$150,000

Project Manager: Jennifer Huffman