



April 24, 2024

City of Wausau
Mr. Eric Lindman
407 Grant Street
Wausau, WI 54403

Subject: Department Review of Riverside Rail Corridor Excavation Documentation Report
132 River Street, Wausau, WI 54403
DNR BRRTS #: 02-37-584785, FID #: 737251350

Dear Mr. Lindman:

On January 30, 2024, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received an excavation documentation report submitted on your behalf by REI Engineering Inc., for review and concurrence. A review fee was submitted in accordance with Wis. Admin. Code Ch. NR 749.04 to facilitate DNR review of the report. The DNR was asked to determine the responsible party status for soil samples S29, S36 and S37, as well as for concurrence with a recommendation to further investigate the area near soil samples S45 and S46.

The Riverside Rail Corridor site (Site) has been extensively investigated for the presence of soil contamination in shallow soils within Riverside Park in Wausau. The primary contaminants of concern at the Site have been dioxin and furan-like compounds and their associated congeners. Soil samples were taken within the Riverside Park boundaries to define the extent of contamination and to aid in development of a remedial strategy at the site. Historically, soil samples taken in the vicinity of the Site indicated the presence of dioxin and furan contamination though no point-source of contamination had been identified.

Investigation activities at the Site defined a broad area of soil contamination impacted by a range of dioxin and furan congeners. The area near the former culvert inlet and outlet appears to have been impacted by an upgradient stormwater conveyance associated with and adjacent property. The DNR will request information from adjacent property owner(s) regarding historic activities on their properties which may have led to an accumulation of contamination at S29 and the culvert inlet area. Based on that assessment, the DNR may require adjacent property owner(s) to conduct a site investigation on their property to define the extent of soil contamination.

Contamination exceeding Wis. Admin. Code Ch. NR 720 residual contamination levels for furan congeners is present at soil samples S36 and S37. These samples were taken as confirmation samples at the edge of City of Wausau property to determine if soil contamination within the Site extended off-site, onto adjacent properties. Previous soil sampling events provided data from adjacent properties which the DNR reviewed when considering the City's request in this report.

The DNR compared congener results from S36 and S37 to nearby samples P6, S1, 120 Riv and 122 E and could not conclude that contamination from the Site migrated off-site, onto adjacent properties, specifically 122 River Street and 120 River Steet. Additionally, the DNR is not requiring the City of Wausau to continue its investigation onto the adjacent properties nor is the DNR requiring the City to remediate soil south of S36 and S37. The City may excavate these soils in cooperation with the property owner(s) to reduce the risk to human health in the area.

Soil samples S45 and S46 indicate the presence of soil contamination exceeding Wis. Admin. Code Ch. NR 720 residual contamination levels for 1,2,3,7,8-PeCDF. The DNR concurs with REI's assessment that additional soil sampling is needed to define the lateral extent of contamination in this area. Once the extent of contamination is defined, please proceed with selection and implementation of a remedial strategy for this area.

The DNR appreciates the City's commitment investigating and remediating soils in the Riverside Park. Please contact me with questions about the site by phone at 715-492-2304 or by email at MatthewA.Thompson@wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Thompson', is positioned above the typed name.

Matt Thompson
West Central Region Supervisor
Remediation & Redevelopment Program

cc: Kevin Fabel, City of Wausau, via email
Matthew Michalski, REI Engineering Inc., via email