Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

October 13, 1993

Mr. Randy Rarick
Cargill
12120 Lynn Avenue
Savage, Minnesota 55378

Dear Mr. Rarick:

RE: Petroleum Tank Release Site Closure
Site: Cargill Molasses Division, 12120 Lynn Avenue, Savage
Site ID#: LEAK00004526

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Tanks and Spills (TS) staff has determined that the cleanup performed in response to the petroleum tank release at the above-referenced site has adequately addressed the petroleum contamination, and therefore the MPCA agrees with Bay West, Inc. that the file regarding this release should be closed.

This decision is based on the information in the "Subsurface Investigation and Line Excavation" report dated December 19, 1991, the "Remedial Investigation Report" dated November 25, 1992, and the "Progress Report" dated April 7, 1993, submitted by Bay West, Inc. for the above-referenced site.

On September 11, 1991, a petroleum release was reported to the MPCA. Since the discovery of the release, you have conducted the following investigative and corrective actions in response to the petroleum release:

1. On September 21, 1991 underground pipelines from an aboveground fuel oil tank to a heater boiler were removed. The pipelines were corroded and pitted with numerous pinholes. The source of the release was the leaking pipelines.

2. During the pipeline excavation, contaminated soil was separated from clean soil based on visual observations, odor, and organic vapor concentrations. Approximately 25 cubic yards of contaminated soil with organic vapor concentrations as high as 212 parts per million (ppm) were excavated, stockpiled, and treated at a thermal treatment facility. Excavation of contaminated soil was limited by railroad tracks and building foundations. After the excavation, headspace analysis of soil samples detected organic vapor concentrations as high as 212 ppm remaining on the sidewalls and bottom of the excavation. Laboratory analysis of soil samples detected petroleum hydrocarbons as high as 1,400 ppm total hydrocarbons as fuel oil remaining on the sidewalls and bottom of the excavation. Ground water was encountered in the excavation in contact with contaminated soil.

3. A remedial investigation was completed on November 25, 1992. Twelve soil borings were advanced around the former excavation, three of which were completed as monitoring wells. Headspace analysis of soil samples detected organic vapor concentrations as high as 3.5 ppm in the soil borings. Petroleum odors were noted in soil borings in the vicinity of the former excavation. Laboratory analysis of soil samples did not detect petroleum hydrocarbons in the soil borings. Laboratory analysis of ground water samples collected from the monitoring wells detected 2.3 part per billion (ppb) benzene in MW-2 cross-gradient of the former excavation and 3.6 ppb toluene in MW-1 downgradient of the former excavation. Several non-fuel contaminants including, acetone, tetrahydrofuran, and methyl ethyl ketone were detected in the monitoring wells above the Minnesota Health Department's Recommended Allowable Limits (RALs). Ground water monitoring suggests that the source of the non-fuel contaminants in MW-1 and MW-2 may be PVC solvent glued joints used to install the PVC monitoring wells. Monitoring well MW-3 was constructed with flush threaded joints and non-fuel contaminants were not detected in MW-3. Ground water monitoring has shown that the concentrations of non-fuel contaminants have decreased below the RALs.

4. The relative lack of volatile hydrocarbons, location of utilities, and lack of basements in the area reduces the potential vapor impacts to underground structures and utilities.

5. Ground water monitoring indicates the petroleum release has impacted the water table aquifer below the RALs for drinking water contaminants downgradient of the petroleum release. The impacted water table aquifer is hydraulically connected to the uppermost drinking water aquifer. There is a non-potable water well (#208835) located 60-75 feet northeast (downgradient) of the petroleum release. Ground water monitoring has shown that the concentration of benzene is below the RAL for drinking water contaminants on the site. Although low levels of ground water contamination remains on site the remaining contaminated soil and ground water does not represent a human health or environmental threat and should naturally degrade.

The monitoring wells for the above-referenced site should be abandoned according to the Minnesota Department of Health Water Well Code. A letter documenting the proper abandonment of the monitoring wells should be submitted to the MPCA TS Section.

Based on the currently available information, we concur with the conclusions of your consultant that these actions have adequately addressed the petroleum tank release. Therefore, MPCA staff does not intend to require any more investigation or clean-up work in response to this release. However, the MPCA reserves the right to reopen this file and require additional work if in the future more work is determined to be necessary, and this letter does not release any party from liability for this contamination.

Because you performed the requested work, the state may reimburse you for a major portion of your costs. The Petroleum Tank Release Cleanup Act establishes a fund which in certain circumstances provides partial reimbursement for petroleum tank release clean-up costs. This fund is administered by the Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Board (Petro Board). More specific eligibility rules are available from the Petro Board (612/297-1119 or 612/297-4203).

Thank you for your cooperation with the MPCA in responding to this petroleum tank release to protect the public health and the environment of the state of Minnesota. If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please call me at 612/297-8611.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Koplitz

Mark Koplitz
Project Manager
Cleanup Unit I
Tanks and Spills Section

MK:vb

cc: Mark McNeill, Savage City Clerk
Al McColl, Savage Fire Chief
Pete Schmitt, Scott County Environmental Office, Shakopee
Shirley McMaster, Bay West