

# Manitoba



Conservation

Environmental Operations  
Division

123 Main Street, Suite 160  
Winnipeg MB R3C 1A5  
CANADA

December 10, 1999

Fisher Accounting & Tax Services  
P.O. Box 473  
Fisher Branch MB R0C 0Z0

**Attention: Mr. Kenneth Mussell**

Dear Mr. Mussell:

**Re: Former Meilleur's Esso, Tache Street at Elderberry Bay, Fisher Branch, Manitoba**

Further to our meeting on December 7, this letter is intended to provide you with Manitoba Conservation's position regarding the above noted site.

On November 24, 1993, as part of a response to wider concerns regarding groundwater contamination in the Fisher Branch area, the former owner of the site, Achwak Abas was issued an Order to investigate the extent of soil and groundwater contamination on the site. The Order was not complied with and this work was ultimately undertaken by Wardrop Engineering on behalf of Manitoba Conservation. The work determined that phase separated petroleum hydrocarbons (gasoline) were detected on the site in at least three monitoring wells (Wardrop August 5, 1997). It was on this basis that the site was designated as a Contaminated Site on February 23, 1998. Revocation of this designation is contingent upon further work to determine the extent of the phase separated petroleum hydrocarbons and ensure potential risk to human health and safety and the environment is minimized.

As owner of this site, The Contaminated Sites Remediation Act (CSRA) holds you responsible for any further environmental investigation work completed on the site. However, the CSRA is based on the "polluter pays principle" and includes a mechanism to determine the responsibility of the person(s) who caused it.

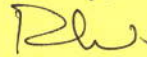
To summarize, as owner of a designated Contaminated Site, it is your responsibility to conduct any additional environmental site investigation work on the site. This work is necessary in order to have the designation removed. Any remedial work to clean up the contamination would have to be completed by the responsible party(ies) as determined through a mechanism prescribed in the CSRA.

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Manitoba Conservation would be pleased to assist you, and your consultant, in determining the scope of an environmental investigation on the site such that all of the information necessary is obtained to move the process forward. I have also attached, for your information, copies of the past environmental investigation reports completed on the site.

Yours truly,



Randy Webber  
Environment Officer

attachments

c      File C.1216  
       Al Beck/Paulette Douville