



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor
Matthew J. Frank, Secretary
Lloyd L. Eagan, Regional Director

South Central Region Headquarters
3911 Fish Hatchery Road
Fitchburg, Wisconsin 53711-5397
Telephone 608-275-3266
FAX 608-275-3338
TTY Access via relay - 711

August 11, 2009

File Ref: 02-11-553973
Dane County

Aldersperson Satya Rhodes-Conway
Office of Common Council, Room 417
210 Martin Luther King Blvd
Madison, WI 53703

Subject: 1902 Tennyson Lane Property

Dear Ms. Rhodes-Conway

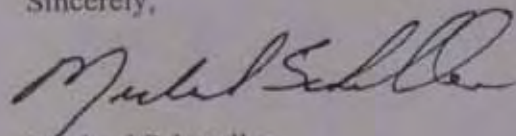
On Friday August 7, 2009 representatives from the Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources (WDNR) and Health Services (DHS) together with staff from the Madison Public Health Department and the USEPA toured the property at 1902 Tennyson Lane. The tour was conducted with Mr. Don Warren, former operator of the facility, in response to city concerns over the condition of the property. During the tour and followup discussions with Mr. Warren specific details regarding the historic prion research activities were discovered. Additional details about other past biological research and radon use on the site were also discussed.

After the tour the WDNR, DHS, USEPA and city and county health officials have reached the following conclusions about the property:

1. Based on what is currently known, the property as a whole represents a limited risk to public health and the environment. The biological and radiological related activities that did occur on site were apparently done so in a way that presents very little concern to the public. On the property there appears to be a low probability of exposure to biological or radiological threats.
2. The Department understands that all the buildings on site are to be demolished. It is the recommendation of all the regulatory agencies involved that as an extra safety precaution the former prion laboratory area in Building 2 be decontaminated. There is no documentation of the previous procedures used to close down the laboratory. While the prion risk associated with the remaining laboratory floors and walls are believed to be low, it would be prudent to decontaminate the structures prior to demolition and final disposal. This would involve hiring a qualified contractor to do the work according to accepted health protocols.
3. There is on site a former dead animal disposal pit. The pit lies in the northeastern portion of the property and has not been used for a number of years. Given the potential residential use for this land, it would be appropriate that this pit area be found, described and excavated prior to any residential land use. We believe it would be wise for the city to eliminate this waste disposal area from a possible future residential setting.
4. Lastly, it is clear that access to the property is uncontrolled. Signs of vandalism are evident. Also, the property lies adjacent to an elementary school. We believe the city should consider requiring fencing or some form of access control to limit the public safety concerns related to the physical hazards on the property. Though the contamination levels at the site do not pose serious concerns there are ample opportunities for someone to be injured by broken glass, discarded machinery, unlit hallways, wet floors, etc.

These conclusions are the combined thoughts of the agencies involved. We believe that with some precautionary work the property can be safely redeveloped. We appreciate you bringing this site to our attention. If you have any further questions or concerns about this parcel please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Schmoller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Michael Schmoller
Hydrogeologist
608-275-3303