



State of Illinois

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Mary A. Gade, Director

2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, IL 62794-9276

July 7, 1997

Mr. Jim Mezo
P. O. Box 220
Benton, IL 62812

Incident Verification Letter
Re: Incident #971159

Dear Mr. Mezo:

On June 30, 1997 this office received information that you or an organization that you represent were involved in an environmental incident which occurred at or near Wamac on or before June 30, 1997. Our records currently indicate the involvement of 50 barrels of crude oil.

Your assistance is requested in confirming, correcting and completing the public records regarding the circumstances of this incident. Enclosed is a copy of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency's report as we received it. Please make additions and any corrections as needed and return it within ten (10) working days from receipt of this letter. Include with your submission a description of the emergency actions taken at the time of the release and if appropriate what additional remediation has taken place or is planned. If cleanup and disposal have not been completed when you submit the 10-day report, include with this report an estimated time schedule for completing such actions. Upon completion, please submit a final report showing how cleanup and disposal were done. Make your reply to:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Emergency Response Unit, Mail Drop #29
P.O. Box 19276, 2200 Churchill Road
Springfield, IL 62794-9276

or

FAX: 217/782-1431

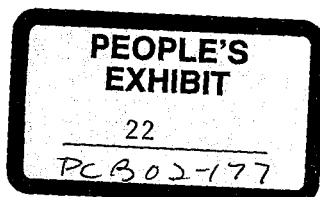
Please refer to the incident number in all correspondence on this incident. Should you have any questions concerning the incident verification please contact the undersigned at 217/782-3637.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Brutlag, Incident Coordinator
Emergency Response Unit

CWB:iv

cc: Incident File





JAMES MEZO OIL CO.

P. O. BOX 220

BENTON, ILLINOIS 62812

PHONE (618) 439-

July 14, 1997

Mr. Charles W. Brutleg, Incident Coordinator
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Emergency Response Unit, Mail Drop #29
P. O. Box 19276, 2200 Churchill Rd.
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276.

Re: Incident #971159 6/30/97.

Dear Mr. Brutleg:

According to information I have, there was approximately 75 barrels of crude in the subject tank in the Oestreich #1 tank battery. At the time the leak was discovered approximately 50 barrels had escaped inside the dyke around the tank battery. All that was possible was picked up by vacuum truck and put in the other tank, then the balance of that tank was emptied and transferred to other stock tank.

It appeared vandals had stomped down top of dyke and as much as 10 barrels may have escaped through these breaches. A straw dam was built in near by creek and oil picked up by vacuum truck from creek and ditch leading to creek. Oil dispersent was put in creek and straw and peat moss scattered in areas where oil was on the ground, oil soaked straw and peat moss have been removed and according to Well Inspector Report of 7/9/97, there is a small amount of oil to be picked up from pit dug inside the fire wall and a ditch behind the tank battery. We hope to have this accomplished today.

Virtually all of the oil has been recovered and placed in the adjacent stock tank.

I believe the clean up will be completed when the gallon or so of oil has been retrieved from the ditch and the hole inside the dyke.

Yours truly,

James Mezo

James Mezo

JM/lm

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