State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WISCONSIN
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

George E. Meyer
Secretary

North Central District Headquarters
Box 818
Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501
TELEPHONE 715-365-8900
TELEFAX 715-365-8932

August 10, 1995

#821-✓

Mr. Michael J. Stingl
Eckert & Stingl, Attorneys At Law
P. O. Box 1247
Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501-1247

Subject: Your July 27, 1995 Letter, File Ref. 3511-94
Taber, et al. versus Freiburger, et al.

Dear Mr. Stingl:

In regard to the points brought up in your July 27, 1995 letter, I have reserved the dates of December 19 and 20 on my calendar and I will be available to testify in the trial. Please contact me to inform me if any changes are made in the scheduling or your projected dates of my testimony.

In regard to the costs incurred by the Tabers, to date, the replacement water supply well cost was a total of $4,721.90. The State of Wisconsin Well Compensation Program covered 60% of the eligible costs for a total of $2,123. The remaining costs were incurred by the Tabers. It is the responsibility of the Tabers to reimburse the contractors for all costs out of their pocket.

While the new replacement well is free of contamination from petroleum hydrocarbons, there is a significant iron problem and as ~~such~~ in order to make this water supply suitable for a business such as the Tower Motel, the Tabers will have to install a rather expensive water treatment device. I would suggest that the Tabers obtain written estimates from a number of water treatment companies in regard to the cost of these devices, as there is a wide range of costs in the water treatment industry. I would expect that the costs for treating the iron problem at the Tower Motel would involve a capital cost of between $4,000 and $8,000 and an operation and maintenance costs of approximately $50-$100 per month. This is a gross estimate based on my experience, however, as I stated earlier, written estimates from a water treatment company would be preferred.

In regard to the amount of money it would take to clean up a petroleum contamination evident in the soils and groundwater of the Tower Motel property, these costs should be borne by the responsible party should they ever become identified. If a responsible party is identified, the costs could be incurred by that party and may involve the installation of a remedial action system on the Tower property. This option could include groundwater recovery wells, soil venting operations, carbon filtration units and water treatment devices. The actual type and design of a system is open to conjectures until such time as an engineering study is performed. Remediating the soils and groundwater could involve a lengthy operation for a number of years with costs reaching hundreds of thousands of dollars.

I will contact you in regard to the Department's efforts to identify a responsible party in this case and to inform you of any progress being made in the Department's investigation of the groundwater contamination in this area. Please be aware this situation is not a high priority case and due to recent staffing problems in our remedial response programs, quick response is not anticipated.

In conclusion, the actual costs associated with the replacement well will also involve the installation and operation and maintenance of a treatment device. In regard to the clean up of the contamination, until such time as engineering studies are performed, those costs are open to conjecture and could include a substantial amount of time and money, the costs, hopefully, being incurred by the responsible party.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Fitzgerald, R.S.
District Sanitarian

CJF:da
cc: Joan Taber, 14277 Hwy. 70 W., Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538
Ron Falkowski, Rhinelander
Private Water Supply Section, WS/2