

Background Information

In 1989, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted a study to determine the level of soil and groundwater contamination at pesticide and fertilizer handling facilities. The study showed:

- two-thirds of the sites in Wisconsin have pesticide concentrations in soil that exceed normal field application rates;
- one-third of the sites have groundwater contamination levels that exceed state enforcement standards.

The Wisconsin legislature then created the Agricultural Chemical Cleanup Program (ACCP) and reimbursement fund to assist with cleanup efforts.

Why is the department interested in this site?

Based on past findings, we conduct investigations throughout the state to identify sites with soil or groundwater contaminated with pesticides or fertilizers. Generally, the sooner a cleanup is started, the less difficult and costly the cleanup will be.

What does a site investigation involve?

Investigations may involve:

- interviewing property owners regarding fertilizer or pesticide product usage and handling practices;
- inspecting properties to determine where contamination may exist such as drainage ways, equipment parking areas, old mixing/loading areas and,
- sampling soil from areas where contamination may exist, for example, dead vegetation, stained soil, and mixing/loading areas.

What are you looking for?

Our goal is to inspect your site and collect environmental samples. Our department's lab will analyze the samples for those compounds most commonly handled at your site.

Will I receive the sample results?

Yes, we will report the sample results to you. You can also request a copy of the sample results.

Are you investigating other sites?

Yes, we expect to investigate about 30 new sites each year.

Will a cleanup of this site be necessary?

A cleanup may be required if the sample results are higher than normal application rates.

If contamination exists, you must:

- identify the cause;
- cleanup the contamination;
- take steps to prevent future contamination.

What will happen next?

Soil cleanup normally involves excavation and landspreading or landfilling the contaminated soils. An early and effective soil cleanup can help prevent the contamination from reaching groundwater.

If the groundwater has been contaminated, clean up will be more expensive and difficult to achieve.

What is expected of me?

During the investigation, we may ask you about:

- the history of the site;
- types of pesticides and fertilizer products used;
- volume of products used;
- product storage practices;

- past management practices;
- mixing/loading areas; and,
- location of burn piles.

Depending on the investigation results, you may be required to hire an environmental consultant to determine the extent of the contamination and to prepare a workplan to cleanup your site.

Are financial resources available?

Yes, the Wisconsin legislature created the Agricultural Chemical Cleanup Program (ACCP) and reimbursement fund to reimburse eligible costs associated with the cleanup of pesticide and fertilizer contamination. Prior to doing a cleanup, contact our office for information on ACCP requirements.

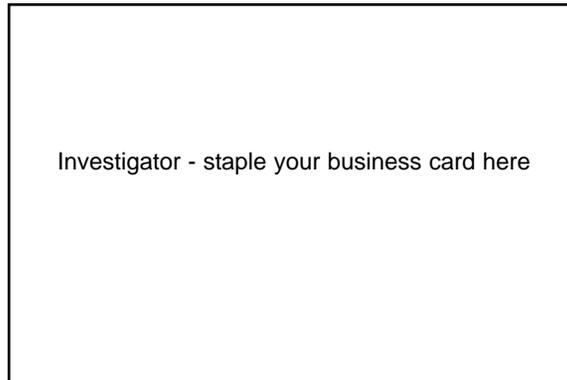
Who should I contact?

If you have questions, contact our ACCP staff.

DATCP
 ARM Division-ACCP
 PO Box 8911
 Madison WI 53708-8911
 (608)224-4519
<http://www.datcp.state.wi.us>

After the cleanup has started at your site, we will give you the name and telephone number of a department hydrogeologist who, along with a field

investigator, will assist you with the investigation and cleanup of your site.



Wisconsin Department of
 Agriculture, Trade
 and Consumer Protection
 PO Box 8911
 Madison WI 53708-8911
 608-224-4500
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 ARM PUB 30 (Rev. 11/06)

**Cleaning Up
 Pesticides
 and
 Fertilizers**

for your information...

**Pesticide &
 Fertilizer
 Site
 Investigation**