**FACT SHEET**

**Proposed Remedial Action Decision**

**Former Farmland Industries, Inc. UAN Terminal, Doniphan, NE**

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) is providing public notice of its intent to approve a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) at the former Farmland Industries, Inc. UAN terminal south of Doniphan, Nebraska. The RAP will be conducted under the Department’s Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) by the Aurora Cooperative. This fact sheet provides background information on the site, a summary of contamination, a description of the proposed action, a description of the public participation procedures, and the NDEQ contact person.

**Site Location:** The former Farmland Industries, Inc. UAN terminal is located at 2070 W Binfield Rd in the SE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 12, Township 9 North, Range 10 West, Hall County, Nebraska.

**Nature and Extent of Contamination:**

Soil and groundwater contamination resulted from the release of UAN (Urea Ammonium Nitrate) fertilizer from a synthetically lined pit. The release was reported in 1989 and remediation has been ongoing since 1990.

**Soil Contamination:** Soil contamination was detected in soil borings in the form of elevated nitrate and ammonia concentrations. The highest nitrate concentrations were found at a depth of 25 to 30 feet below the surface. The area around the pit also shows elevated nitrate levels in the upper 6 feet of sediment.

**Groundwater Contamination:** Groundwater beneath the pit was impacted and the contaminant plume has moved to the southeast. The most recent sampling event has shown the maximum concentration of nitrate to be 140 mg/l while the highest level of ammonia in groundwater was 180 mg/l.

**Groundwater Remedial Action Class:** The NDEQ assigns a Remedial Action Classification (RAC) to a groundwater contamination event to determine the importance of remedial action, in part, on the use of groundwater in the area (Nebraska Title 118, Appendix A, Step 8). Groundwater that is being used as a public drinking water supply is assigned the highest remedial action class of RAC-1. Groundwater that has the potential of being used as drinking water is generally designated as RAC-2. The Department typically requires extensive cleanup of groundwater that is classified as RAC-1 or RAC-2. When the use of groundwater in the area is more limited, the groundwater is assigned a RAC-3 (lowest priority). Generally, groundwater cleanup will be less extensive for this classification. The pollution event for this site has been classified as a RAC-2.

**Interim Remedial Actions:** The area of the UAN pit was capped with a clay liner and a recovery well has been pumped seasonally with the groundwater applied to an adjacent field at agronomic rates. An estimated 361,000 pounds of nitrogen have been removed from groundwater beneath the site since pumping began in 1990.

**Remedial Action Objectives:** Remedial Action Objectives (RAOs) are statements that define qualitative and quantitative goals that are to be achieved for the contaminants identified at the site. RAOs provide a framework from which potential remedial actions are evaluated to achieve the objectives. RAOs for the former Farmland Industries, Inc. UAN terminal include:

* Prevent ingestion of groundwater with concentrations of Chemicals of Concern (COCs) greater than the approved Remediation Goals (RGs) by personnel at the project site
* Mitigate the infiltration of precipitation within the footprint of the former UAN storage pit.
* Restore the aquifer underlying the project site to the approved RGs within a reasonable timeframe and mitigate further migration of COCs in the groundwater

**Proposed Remedial Actions:** The Aurora Cooperative, as the purchaser of the site, is proposing the following remedial actions:

* Groundwater remediation by continuing use of the existing recovery well and installing an additional recovery well
* Maintain a physical barrier above the former UAN pit area with the use of a concrete lined storage and loading pad and a low permeability clay cap
* Establish an environmental covenant to maintain the low permeability cap and prohibit on-site drinking water use without treatment
* Monitoring groundwater with five remaining monitor wells
* Assure that unneeded monitor wells are abandoned

**Public Participation Procedures:** You may receive additional information, submit written comments regarding the proposed actions, or request a hearing, in writing, on or before May 28, 2019. If you request a hearing, you must state the nature of the issues to be raised, present your arguments, and facts to support your position in writing to the Department. If the Director grants a public hearing, the hearing will be advertised by public notice at least 30 days prior to its occurrence. Comments and requests should be mailed to Marty Link, Water Quality Division, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, PO Box 98922, Lincoln, NE 68509-8922, phone (402)471-2186.

**Contact:** The proposed RAP and supporting materials pertaining to the former Farmland Industries, Inc. UAN terminal site are available for inspection at the office of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, 1200 N Street, Suite 400, The Atrium, Lincoln, NE. These materials may also be viewed online at <http://deq.ne.gov/> by selecting “Public Notices” at the bottom of the page. Please notify the Department of Environmental Quality if alternate formats of materials are needed by May 28, 2019. Contact phone number is (402) 471-2186. TDD users please call 711 and as the relay operator to call us at (402) 471-2186. Further information may also be obtained from Brad Routt, Groundwater Section, and (402) 471-3381.