



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Date: May 10, 2023
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MAYOR AMENT ISSUES ORDER TERMINATING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY WITHIN THE CITY OF NEW BERLIN

New Berlin, WI - Effective immediately, Mayor Ament has issued an Order terminating the State of Emergency within the City of New Berlin as a result of an oil spill which occurred at 3890 S. Moorland Road which proceeded to contaminate the City of New Berlin Storm Water Management System and Storm Water Management Ponds.

On Sunday, March 19th the City received a 911 call informing personnel of a strong smell and presence of oil in the SP-2 storm water pond just East off of the end of Howard Avenue behind the Post Office. New Berlin Police, Fire Department and Emergency Management staff responded immediately and confirmed the presence of a large oil spill. The State DNR Spill Hotline was immediately contacted to report the incident. City staff deployed booms and absorption matting once onsite to contain the spill at the SP-2 location and limit its distribution and ultimate environmental impact. After further investigation, the spill source was identified as coming from the business located at 3890 S. Moorland Road which occurred on Thursday, March 16th. The spill went unreported for three (3) days.

Pursuant to Municipal Code Chapter 24, Mayor Ament issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency on March 20, 2023 in the City to allow for the immediate deployment of resources and materials to help facilitate and expedite the use of resources to protect persons and property from the impacts of the spread of the aforementioned oil spill. The Declaration also included the issuance of a protective order prohibiting unauthorized persons from entering the cleanup area while remediation efforts were underway.

Cleanup efforts are now largely completed and it has been determined that a threat no longer exists. Mayor Ament would like to extend a sincere appreciation to multiple City departments on their rapid response and teamwork displayed to effectively respond, contain, cleanup, recover and communicate regarding this incident. In addition, the Mayor extends his appreciation to Clean Harbors; the cleanup contractor, and the Wisconsin DNR for their efforts, guidance and support throughout the cleanup to protect the public health and safety of New Berlin residents. While some very small remnant of oil may still be present, in consultation with the Wisconsin DNR, it is expected to naturally attenuate over time.

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Cc: Aldermen, media