Excavation Hazard Notice
Ethanol Derailment Site
Tiskilwa, Illinois

Early on the morning of October 7, 2011, a train operated by Iowa Interstate Railroad (IAIS) derailed multiple railcars in the vicinity of Tiskilwa, Illinois, resulting in the release of denatured ethanol into the environment. The derailment site is located east of Tiskilwa, north of County Route 23.

It has been recently-documented that certain levels of ethanol and methane in groundwater may result in methane gas transferring from groundwater to soil. The methane gas in the soil could produce an explosive soil gas mixture if in a confined space and an ignition source is present. **Therefore, the Illinois EPA cautions against anyone digging or excavating, as well as doing any trenching or doing any underground or partly underground work, which would create a confined space, within the 3-acre area depicted in Figure 1. Please note that this explosion hazard only pertains to this specific 3-acre area of concern.**

Since the derailment, IAIS has conducted environmental investigations in the immediate vicinity of the release. These investigations were conducted under the requirements of an Agreed Interim Order, dated October 31, 2011, to determine the extent of any remaining impacts to the soils and groundwater beneath the surface. The results of those investigations indicate shallow groundwater in the vicinity of the release remains impacted. Ethanol and methane have been found at elevated levels in the shallow groundwater. Methane can be a byproduct of the degradation of ethanol. Impacted groundwater is generally located 13-15 feet below the ground surface. No residences or commercial buildings are located in this area.

The area of impacted shallow groundwater is approximately three (3) acres in size and includes agricultural fields and railroad right-of-way. This area of concern is depicted in the attached Figure 1. IAIS is working with Illinois EPA to develop appropriate signage.

IAIS commits to work with Illinois EPA to develop an appropriate cleanup strategy to address the risks posed by the ethanol and methane contamination resulting from the derailment. In addition, IAIS intends to continue during 2013 to do quarterly sampling of monitoring wells around the impacted area to monitor the shallow groundwater. An Information Repository containing documents pertaining to the on-going investigation and cleanup of this release is located at Tiskilwa Public Library, Attention: Karyn Stark, 119 E. Main Street, Tiskilwa, IL 61368, (815) 646-4511.

Additional information is available by contacting Michelle D. Tebrugge, Illinois EPA Community Relations Coordinator, at (217) 524-4825.

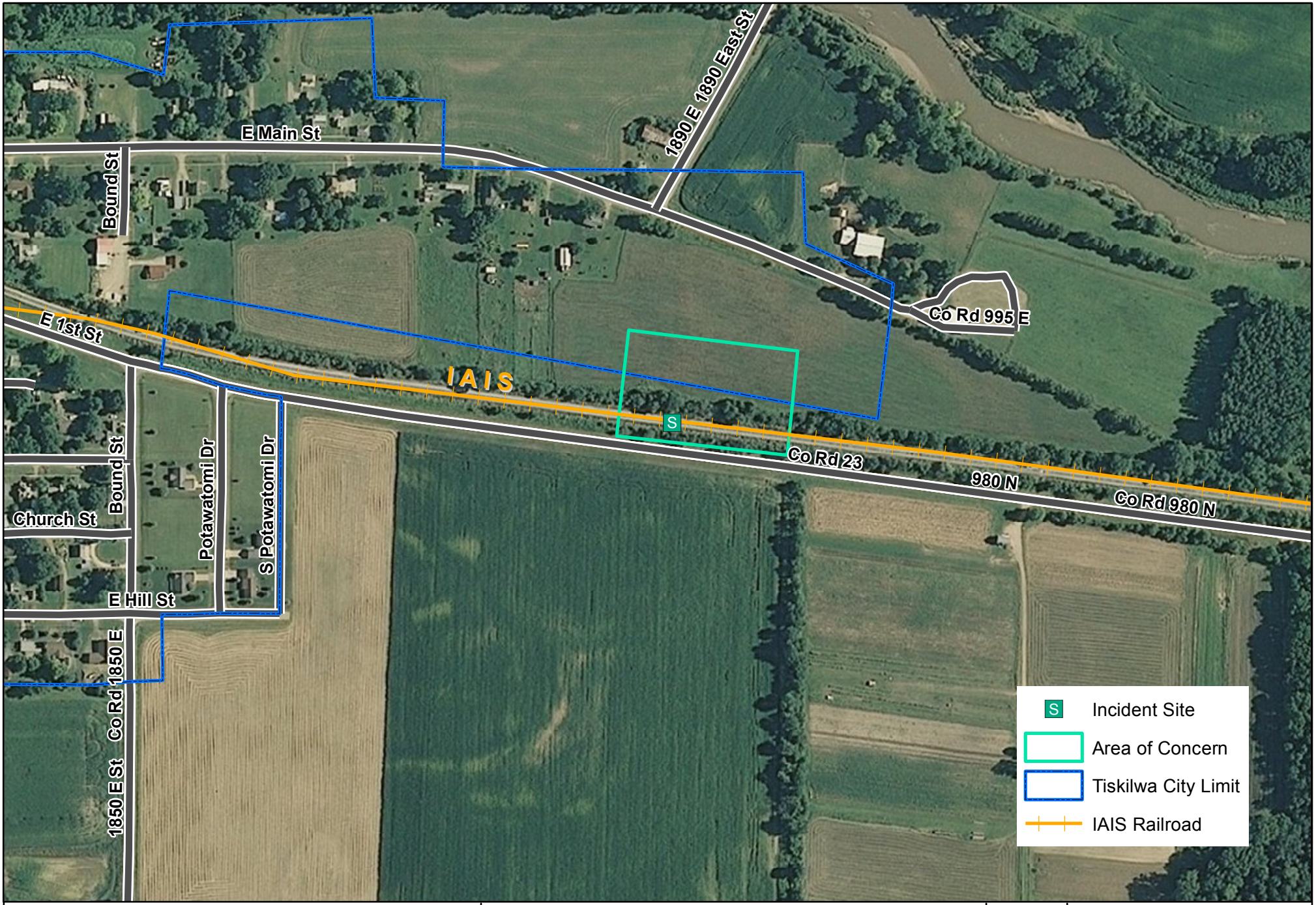

Figure 1
Tiskilwa, IL Ethanol Derailment
Area of Concern

0 125 250 500 750 1,000
Feet

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CTEH®

Project No.
40226

Iowa Interstate Railroad
Tiskilwa, IL
Bureau County
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