DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and NATURAL RESOURCES
JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 E CAPITOL AVE
PIERRE SD 57501-3182
danr.sd.gov

October 19, 2026

Sarah Blaine
POET - Mitchell
40509 247th St
Mitchell, SD 57301

Re: Closure designation for DANR File #2026.153: pertaining to the release of diluted sodium hydroxide (CIP) at the POET facility in Mitchell, South Dakota.

Dear Ms. Blaine,

The Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) has reviewed the actions taken in response to the above referenced incident. Based on the information provided, there is no risk to human health or further risk to the environment. Therefore, the department is closing this case.

On September 25, 2026 approximately 250 gallons of diluted sodium hydroxide were released as the result of a failed pipe. POET staff deployed spill kits and constructed a berm. Liquid product was pumped back into the facility. Fifty cubic yards of contaminated soil were excavated. Approximately 10.91 tons of contaminated materials were properly disposed at the Mitchell Landfill. The pipe was replaced and concrete containment was installed to reduce the impact of potential future releases. If any future problems arise related to this release, POET Biorefining may be responsible for performing assessment and further cleanup.

If you have questions or concerns about this site's Closure designation, please contact Hanna Kollbaum of my staff at 605.773.3296. Thank you for your cooperation in protecting South Dakota's water resources.

Sincerely,

Terry Florentz, P.E.
Administrator
Inspection, Compliance, and Remediation Program

cc: Jeff Bathke, Davison County Emergency Manager
Karen Wegleitner, Davison County Deputy Emergency Manager