prepared to take on this role. Several agricultural protection measures were not properly implemented on agricultural land because of the failure to have the agricultural inspectors involved early on in the project.

It is also important that the agricultural inspectors remain on site until all agricultural restoration is complete. At that point, arrangements have to be made concerning the inspectors' availability to develop and implement a monitoring plan for the agricultural areas for two growing seasons.

Finally, it is not uncommon for the land agent to be the only contact for agricultural landowners. The Department recommends that the agricultural landowners have direct access to the agricultural inspectors during planning, construction, restoration, and monitoring. Land agents are not familiar enough with agricultural operations and the needs of the producer. It has also been my experience that they often do not respond to the agricultural landowners' concerns in a timely manner. While the Department understands a company's preference for a land agent to be involved in conversations with landowners, the Department believes it is necessary for the agricultural inspector to be directly available to discuss agricultural concerns and to be directly involved in conversations with landowners relative to agricultural issues.

I hope this information is helpful and if you would like to discuss this further, feel free to contact me.

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