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From: Moore, Brian
Sent: Tue 6/9/2015 11:24:11 PM
Subject: Miller Chemical Fire: Safe Drinking Water Update / Status Upadate 6-9-15

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All,

I wanted to provide a summary of the meetings and conference calls I've been involved with today and provide that to all programs and also PEMA. I will try and summarize what has been a day full of discussions with multiple programs, agencies, and companies. If I miss something that has been discussed in a program meeting please feel free to provide updated information.

- As of approximately 12 pm today (6/9/15) firefighting activities at Miller Chemical and Fertilizer were stopped and the facility was turned over to company for their insurance personnel to inspect the site and prepare for demolition. Environmental Products and Services has been onsite since yesterday, 6/8/15, attempting to collect as much runoff water as possible. Estimates from Hannover Borough water say that approximately 3.8 million gallons of water was used during the firefighting operations. EP & S has been able to collect approximately 250,000 gallons. The rest of that water traveled just over ½ mile through drainage swales and farm fields ditches and entered or is in the process of entering an Unnamed Tributary to the South Branch of the Conewago locally referred to as 'Slagle's Run'. The runoff water is very visible and is colored dark purple to brown/black in the water.

- Two water intakes are affected by the runoff. One, in Slagel's Run, is a backup, secondary, intake used by Hanover Borough, the intake has not been used since it was exercised in April and it is not anticipated to be needed until August. The valves to the pump station are closed to prevent any back flow from entering and potentially contaminating the intake. The second, in the South Branch of the Conewago, is the main source of drinking water for the New Oxford Municipal Authority (NOMA). That intake was closed as of 08:35 on 6/8/15 and is not believed to be impacted by the runoff. An emergency sample kit was used in the clear well of the water plant and **preliminary** results from the DEP laboratory indicate that it was not impacted.

- New Oxford Municipal Authority does have an interconnection with the York Water Company which was installed to provide a back up to the water intake in the event it was unusable, such as now. That interconnection is capable of providing 576,000 gallons of water per day to NOMA. The current usage by NOMA is approximately 700,000 gallons per day. The difference is currently being made up with water from NOMA's storage tanks. At approximately 10:30 on 6/9/15 NOMA issued mandatory water restrictions asking for residents and business to reduce

their water usage (similar to what would be in place during a drought). NOMA also informed the Department on 6/9/15 that they had between 2 and 3 days of storage left in their tanks at their current usage. Alternatives are being explored with the York Water Company for them to provide NOMA with additional water however, they are being limited by the infrastructure currently in place in the NOMA system, specifically the size of the pipes and their ability to take additional pressure without causing a water main break. York Water and NOMA are working through those issues and I anticipate the Department receiving an update from them on 6/10/15. Other potential alternatives being explored, such as trucking water and/or reducing or cutting flows to commercial and industrial customers, however they are likely worst case scenario's.

- An emergency sample kit was used at Slagel's Run on 6/8/15. The **preliminary** results are consistent with runoff from a chemical and fertilizer fire ie: elevated levels of nutrients and metals as well as some herbicides, volatile organic compounds and very high Total Organic Carbon. The samples results showed concentrations which are above Maximum Contaminant Levels and are not able to be removed by the NOMA filter plant essentially making the water intake and plant useless until contamination has passed by the plant. At this point in time there is no time table for that to happen as it is going to be dependent on the flow through the swale and ditches. There are also concerns that the contaminants are in the soil in the swales and ditches and that even when dry they may continue to flow into Slagel's Run during rain events.

- I have been in contact with Miller Chemical and Fertilizer as well as their pollution prevention contractor hired by their insurance company. Both the company and the contractor have been made aware of the impacts to the water systems and the need to eliminate the flow of the contaminants into Slagel's Run. As of 18:35 on 6/9/15 they are trying to dam the swales with sand in an attempt to filter the runoff as well as pump as much as possible out. They are also looking to try and divert the runoff into a field as opposed to Slagel's Run and are working with nearby property owners. Additionally, they have discussed scraping and removing the contaminated soil from the swales and ditches.

- A meeting/conference call between Southcentral Regional Staff, Adams County EMA, EPA On Scene Coordinators Office and Miller Chemical and Fertilizer is anticipated to take place tomorrow, 6/10/15, in the morning to discuss cleanup plans proposed by the consultants. (The EPA on scene coordinators office has been briefed on the situation in the event the incident has long term implications and additional assistance is needed.)

The main summary is that until the contamination stops flowing into Slagel's Run and the contaminants are reduced in the South Branch of the Conewago the intake for NOMA (and Hannover Borough) is unable to be used. The potential for long term impacts from rain events continuing to wash contaminants into Slagel's Run is also a concern however in my initial discussions with Miller Chemical and Fertilizer and their consultants they ***seem*** to understand the potential impacts to NOMA and are willing to do what is necessary to alleviate the issue.

Following the meeting with Miller Chemical and Fertilizer and talk with NOMA and York water and additional update will be provided. I do not anticipate having something concrete until tomorrow afternoon at the earliest.

If anyone has any other questions please feel free to contact me directly. Again, if any of the programs has additional or updated information to provide please feel free to provide it. I did not get into specifics on the sample results as the final results have not been received.

Thanks

Brian

Brian L. Moore| Manager

Emergency Response Program

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