Craft-Turney Water Supply Corporation
Jacksonville, TX
October 6, 2018

Background

On Oct. 3, the Craft-Turney Water Supply Corp. notified the TCEQ of a backflow incident impacting a small portion of the system: 11 service connections. The TCEQ suspects a fungicide entered the water supply. The water utility has indicated that this portion of the system has been isolated from the distribution system. The **do not use order** was initially issued to customers of this portion of the distribution system, but was expanded to customers in the general vicinity of these connections as a precaution. Customers in the expanded area, (numbering about 1500) can use water to flush their toilets but cannot use the water for any other purposes, such as bathing, washing clothes, preparing food, drinking, gardening, or for pets.

Since issuing the order, the TCEQ has been in continuous contact with the water utility's representatives to ensure public awareness of this situation and has initiated multiple measures, including sampling to determine the extent of potential impact in the water system. The TCEQ is coordinating with the water supply corporation, as well as other state partners and EPA Region 6. The water utility has been continuously flushing the system to remove any potential contaminants. TCEQ investigators and engineers are on the ground and working with the water supply corporation to address this issue. The TCEQ has an open investigation into this incident to determine the cause and source.

The **do not use order** will remain in place until the water system has been adequately flushed and samples indicate that the water is safe to use. It is not known at this time how long this may take, but the health and safety of the water supply corporation's customers is TCEQ's priority.

Update

On October 5, 2018, evaluations of the 11 homes originally believed to be impacted were conducted by TCEQ investigators and engineers, which included water sampling and providing general information to affected customers. In addition, the homes of three complainants were visited and water samples taken. Sample results from the October 4, 2018 sampling event have not yet been received.

On October 5, 2018, the TCEQ conducted a site visit at the expected site of the alleged back siphoning occurrence. During the visit, a sample from the suspected source/product mixture was obtained. This will assist the EPA lab in their analyses. Although staff were able to obtain a sample of the suspected contaminant, more information is needed. A demand letter has been prepared and is being E-mailed this evening and will be mailed via certified mail either this evening or in the morning to the suspected source.

TCEQ provided twenty-eight pallets of bottled water to the utility on Thursday for impacted customers. The water is available at the Craft-Turney office at 505 Loop 456 in Jacksonville. A local church, the First United Methodist Church-Jacksonville at 1031 TX-456 Loop, has opened its facilities to those affected by the do not use water notice for bathing and washing dishes.

No new requests for bottled water have been made at this time. However, TCEQ is providing a 16-stall portable shower which will be set up at the Central Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Texas, by noon on October 6, 2018. The shower unit will use City of Jacksonville water which is not impacted by this incident.

ISK Biocide, based in Memphis, TN shipped a 100 gram sample of 99% technical material (methylene bis-thiocyanate, MBT, with a Certificate of Analysis) to the Houston lab the evening of October 5, 2018. Several attempts to locate a more local source of MBT proved unsuccessful. The sample is scheduled to arrive on Monday, October 8 by noon. EPA has the tracking information for the sample provided by ISK Biocides. The Houston Lab will have personnel on hand Monday to receive the sample and begin work.

The TCEQ has also coordinated with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and their staff are available to take calls regarding health concerns.

Press

TCEQ issued a news release on the evening of October 5, 2018.