Message

From: Graff, Jeannine [Graff.Jeannine@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/25/2016 7:47:01 PM
To: Davis, CatherineM [Davis.CatherineM@epa.gov]; Ferrell, Mark [Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov]
CC: Rodrigues, Cecil [rodrigues.cecil@epa.gov]; D'Andrea, Michael [DANDREA.MICHAEL@EPA.GOV]; White, Terri-A [White.Terri-A@epa.gov]; schafer, joan [schafer.joan@epa.gov]; Miller, Linda [miller.linda@epa.gov]; Searfoss, Renee [searfoss.renee@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Updated health advisories - PFOA and PFOS - drinking water
Attachments: AL-16-000-8483 McKinley CMS control slip.pdf

Just to be clear this control was assigned to OW, with only a CC to R3. (CMS control slip attached)

Jeannine S. Graff
Office of Communications and Government Relations
EPA Region III
215-814-5106

From: Davis, CatherineM
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 3:43 PM
To: Ferrell, Mark <Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov>
Cc: Rodrigues, Cecil <rodrigues.cecil@epa.gov>; D'Andrea, Michael <DANDREA.MICHAEL@EPA.GOV>; White, Terri-A <White.Terri-A@epa.gov>; schafer, joan <schafer.joan@epa.gov>; Miller, Linda <miller.linda@epa.gov>; Searfoss, Renee <searfoss.renee@epa.gov>; Graff, Jeannine <Graff.Jeannine@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated health advisories - PFOA and PFOS - drinking water

Hi Mark,

The questions in the letter are pretty detailed. I'm going to try to set up a briefing call with OW and Cong. McKinely's staff and maybe we can do a simpler response after the call. I'll copy you on my email to Blake.

Cathy Davis
Office of Congressional and
Intergovernmental Relations
202-564-2703
davis.catherinem@epa.gov

Send mail to:
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
MC: 1305A
Washington, DC 20460

From: Ferrell, Mark
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2016 1:45 PM
To: Davis, CatherineM <Davis.CatherineM@epa.gov>
Cc: Rodrigues, Cecil <rodrigues.cecil@epa.gov>; D'Andrea, Michael <DANDREA.MICHAEL@EPA.GOV>; White, Terri-A <White.Terri-A@epa.gov>; schafer, joan <schafer.joan@epa.gov>; Miller, Linda <miller.linda@epa.gov>; Searfoss, Renee <searfoss.renee@epa.gov>; Graff, Jeannine <Graff.Jeannine@epa.gov>
Subject: Fw: Updated health advisories - PFOA and PFOS - drinking water

Please see attached letter from Rep. David McKinley (WV1) to HQ.

~Mark

From: Deeley, Blake <Blake.Deeley@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2016 1:33 PM
To: Ferrell, Mark; Hamilton, Mike
Cc: Rogers, Rod
Subject: RE: Updated health advisories - PFOA and PFOS - drinking water

Mark,

The attached letter was sent out this morning to Dep. Assistant Administrator Beauvais.

-Blake

From: Ferrell, Mark [mailto:Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2016 1:32 PM
To: Hamilton, Mike
Cc: Rogers, Rod; Deeley, Blake
Subject: Re: Updated health advisories - PFOA and PFOS - drinking water

Haven't forgotten about you guys, will have something for you today.

~Mark

From: Ferrell, Mark
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2016 10:37 AM
To: Hamilton, Mike
Cc: Rogers, Rod; Deeley, Blake
Subject: Re: Updated health advisories - PFOA and PFOS - drinking water

Mike, while Im working on response for you here are some WV clips Ive collected this morning on the C8 story:

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON GAZETTE-MAIL

'Do not drink' advised for Vienna water after EPA issues C8 guidance Three West Virginia communities are changing their water sources after the federal Environmental Protection Agency released Thursday a new national standard for C8, a chemical that for years contaminated the drinking water of Wood County communities and is linked to cancer, thyroid disease and dangerously high blood pressure in pregnant women. The EPA's move caused immediate action, as West Virginia regulators on Thursday advised Vienna residents not to drink or cook with their water, based on test results over the past couple of years. "The Bureau for Public Health is working with the town of Vienna to implement appropriate precautions, which will include a 'Do Not Drink' advisory until additional testing and evaluation takes place," said Dr. Rahul Gupta, commissioner of the state Bureau for Public Health. "The Department of Health and Human Resources and the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety will assist those affected by the EPA's advisory, and the state will assist in securing installation of new filters. "Two other public water systems in West Virginia, located in

Parkersburg and Martinsburg, were also affected by the new EPA thresholds. They have taken immediate action by using additional water sources to provide water." All three cities got their water through groundwater sources, or wells, said Walt Ivey, an environmental health official with the DHHR. Parkersburg and Martinsburg both had additional wells with lower levels of contamination, so they were able to turn off the chemically contaminated sources and residents should see no changes in their water service, Ivey said. The EPA's health advisory set a level of 70 parts per trillion of C8 in drinking water, saying chemical levels below that standard are "not expected to result in adverse health effects over a lifetime of exposure." Baseline testing required by the EPA and done in 2014 and 2015 had found chemical levels below a previous provisional health advisory but above the new advisory, Ivey said.
South Charleston moves to rezone parcel for commercial development South Charleston Council has given preliminary approval to a rezoning request that would make way for a new commercial development along Jefferson Road.

WTAP-TV NEWSCENTER - PARKERSBURG

Update: MOV Health Department releases recommendations for hotels & restaurants **(Multiple videos on C8 issue) Vienna, W.Va. (WTAP) -** Update: 5/19/206 11:25 -- Thursday evening, health officials visited hotels and restaurants in Vienna and Boaz to advise those businesses what they need to be doing to keep you safe. While the water is not safe, in those two cities, to drink, it's okay to use to bath and wash dishes. Here's a list of other things that the Mid- Ohio Valley Health Department says that the restaurants and hotels, as well as you, are advised *not* to do.
Water should not be used for:
Food preparation
Ice machines
Drink machines - coffee and tea makers
Fruit and vegetables misters in stores
Washing fruits and vegetables
Water fountains.
Hotels are also being asked to provide bottled water to people to use to brush their teeth. The MOV Health Department does say the water is safe for restaurants to use to wash dishes and equipment in three bowl sinks, in dishwashers and for hand washing.

WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Drinking Water Warnings Issued for Pakersburg, Martinsburg, Vienna UPDATE: A representative from the Martinsburg Water Department said residents should feel safe to drink their tap water. The water department has shut off the intake at Big Springs Water Filtration Plant, which is contaminated with C-8, and switched over to a larger plant. Kilmer Springs Water Filtration Plant in Martinsburg, is the main plant cleaning the city's water. Testing is underway until the issue is resolved.
ORIGINAL POST: The Federal Environmental Protection Agency issued a drinking water advisory today for the carcinogenic chemical commonly referred to as C-8. Several municipalities in the state have C-8 in their tap water at higher levels than the federal guidelines suggest is safe, leaving city and state officials strategizing on what to do next. Vienna is one town in West Virginia struggling with how to manage chemical contamination in municipal water supplies. The town sits within close proximity to DuPont, a chemical company with a history of environmental contamination problems. City officials say C-8 exists at .1 part per billion in water supplies today. But the new federal advisory says in order for drinking water to be considered safe, levels should be lower than .07 parts per billion. Some people say that even that level is dangerous, especially if you live with the contamination every day. "It is not in line with the latest scientific recommendations by renown toxicologists who said there ought to be no more than .001 parts per billion," said Dr. Paul Brooks, a resident in Vienna and an advisory member of an activist group called Keep Your Promises DuPont. He also said

filtration systems need to be put in place immediately. "And who needs to pay for that is DuPont because they are the ones who contaminated the environment up here," he added.

WEST VIRGINIA METRO NEWS

Federal EPA warns of high chemical levels in Martinsburg, Parkersburg and Vienna water sources

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The federal EPA announced Thursday that water sources in Martinsburg, Parkersburg and Vienna contain the chemicals PFOA and PFOS at levels higher than previously recommended for public water systems. A ' do not drink' advisory was put in place for Vienna residents by state regulators. U.S. Sens. Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito issued the following statement regarding the announcement: "We're very concerned for the residents of Martinsburg, Parkersburg and Vienna in light of the new drinking water advisory issued by the EPA. Our first and number one priority is to ensure these residents have safe and clean drinking water. We have been in contact with the EPA, state and local officials, and the National Guard, and we will continue to monitor the situation closely." PFOA and PFOS are fluorinated organic chemicals that are part of a larger group of chemicals referred to as perfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS's, according to an EPA facts sheet. The fact sheet says that the chemicals have been used to make carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food and other materials that are resistant to water, grease or stains. Because these chemicals have been used in so many consumer products and household items, most people have been exposed to them, according to the EPA.

WSAZ-TV - HUNTINGTON

Do not drink advisory issued for citizens of Vienna WOOD COUNTY, W.Va. (WSAZ) -- The Bureau for Public health has reviewed new information regarding PFOA and PFOS that the U.S. EPA released Thursday, and have decided to issue a Do Not Drink advisory for citizens of Vienna until additional testing and evaluation takes place. According to Drema Mace of the Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department, the levels in the city of Vienna's water source are just slightly above the limit, and will require additional testing. Mace says the water is fine for use in restrooms, hand-washing, and bathing. C8 is a chemical that is used in manufacture process of Teflon and is also used in stain and water resistant coatings for fabric and carpets. The chemical used to be manufactured at the DuPont Plant in the Mid-Ohio Valley and has been a controversial subject and the topic of lawsuits over the years. Mace says the Health Department is working with local restaurants and helping them to post signs letting citizens know the restaurants are using portable water to cook food. According to Dr. Rahul Gupta, state health officer and commissioner for the Bureau for Public Health, the Department of Health and Human Resources and the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety will assist those affected by the EPA's advisory, and the state will assist in securing installation of new activated carbon filters for the water system. Two other public water systems in West Virginia, located in Parkersburg and Martinsburg, were also affected by the new EPA thresholds. They have taken immediate action by using additional water sources to provide water.

HUNGTINGTON NEWS.NET

EPA's new drinking water health advisory for C-8 is a step in the right direction but falls short of protecting human health PARKERSBURG, WV – Responding to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's announcement of a drinking water health advisory for C-8 of 0.07 parts per billion, Dr. Paul Brooks released the following statement on behalf of Keep Your Promises DuPont: "EPA's guideline is a step in the right direction, but it is insufficient to protect people's health from the harmful effects of C-8 exposure, which include testicular cancer, kidney cancer, ulcerative colitis, and other serious illnesses. If EPA wants to protect us from C-8, the guideline for long term exposure must be lowered to 0.001 parts per billion, the threshold the latest science on the chemical determines is safe. "EPA must set a legally enforceable standard that will protect the millions of Americans drinking C-8-contaminated water. This guideline falls short of that goal. "Meanwhile, my family, my friends, and my neighbors across the mid-Ohio Valley are still drinking water contaminated with C-8 at levels exceeding this guideline. For example, in my community of Vienna, West Virginia, the water is contaminated above this level. This is unacceptable, and given this new guideline, our water must be filtered immediately." -- About Keep Your Promises Keep Your Promises is a community-based organization

dedicated to holding DuPont to the promises it made to the people of the Greater Mid-Ohio Valley in connection to the company's contamination with the chemical C-8. The organization was developed in partnership with the Action Network Fund, a nonprofit organization that empowers citizens to stand up for their communities and their livelihoods in the face of corporate abuse.

From: Hamilton, Mike <Mike.Hamilton@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2016 10:18 AM
To: Ferrell, Mark
Cc: Rogers, Rod; Deeley, Blake
Subject: RE: Updated health advisories - PFOA and PFOS - drinking water

Mark –

As you are likely aware, this new standard impacts several communities, including Vienna, WV where they have issued a "do not drink" order.

My question is two part:

1. How many water systems across the country do you estimate are above the .07 ppb standard?
2. For communities like Vienna what resources – financial and otherwise – are available from EPA to help them address this immediately? They are a small community and they don't have a lot of resources to fix the problem (for a filtration system, etc).

Please let me know as soon as possible.

Thanks,
Mike

From: Ferrell, Mark [mailto:Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2016 2:10 PM
Subject: Updated health advisories - PFOA and PFOS - drinking water

Today, based on the latest science, EPA released drinking water health advisories to provide the most up-to-date information on the health risks of PFOA and PFOS. These advisories will help local water systems and state, tribal and local officials take the appropriate steps to address PFOA and PFOS if needed. EPA's assessment indicates that drinking water with individual or combined concentrations of PFOA and PFOS below 70 parts per trillion is not expected to result in adverse health effects over a lifetime of exposure. These levels reflect a margin of protection, including for the most sensitive populations.

If these chemicals are found in drinking water systems above these levels, system operators should quickly conduct additional sampling to assess the level, scope, and source of contamination. They should also promptly notify consumers and consult with their state drinking water agency to discuss appropriate next steps. Public notification is especially important for pregnant or nursing women because of the impact these chemicals can have on the development of fetuses and breastfed or formula-fed infants. There are a number of options available to water systems to lower concentrations of these chemicals in the drinking water supply.
For most people, their source of exposure to PFOA and PFOS has come through food and consumer products. But drinking water can be an additional source of exposure in the small percentage of communities where these chemicals have contaminated water supplies. This is typically a localized issue associated with a specific facility – for example, in communities where a manufacturing plant or airfield made or used these chemicals.

More information:

EPA's Drinking Water Website: epa.gov/safewater

PFOA and PFOS health advisories: epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos

"Science Guides Public Health Protection for Drinking Water" blog: blog.epa.gov

https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos

https://blog.epa.gov/blog/2016/05/protection-for-drinking-water/

Regards,

Mark

Mark Ferrell
EPA Region 3
Office of Communications and Government Relations
(304) 542-0231