Message

From: Shea, Valois [Shea.Valois@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/23/2017 9:51:34 PM
To: Bahrman, Sarah [Bahrman.Sarah@epa.gov]; Ketellapper, Victor [Ketellapper.Victor@epa.gov]
CC: Chisholm, Joseph [chisholm.joseph@epa.gov]; Minter, Douglas [Minter.Douglas@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Edgemont, SD Drinking Water Supply

I just heard back from the engineer working on the new water treatment plant. The info I received from him is similar to the info below. He mentioned that Edgemont started working on the plans for the new water treatment plant when they got the first gross alpha violation. He clarified that the treatment will be for radionuclides only, not metals, so it will be a bag filter treatment system. Edgemont monitors for heavy metals once a year and hasn't had any exceedances, although there was a violation for not monitoring for heavy metals in 2011.

Valois

Valois Shea
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From: Bahrman, Sarah
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 2:52 PM
To: Ketellapper, Victor <Ketellapper.Victor@epa.gov>
Cc: Chisholm, Joseph <chisholm.joseph@epa.gov>; Shea, Valois <Shea.Valois@epa.gov>; Minter, Douglas <Minter.Douglas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Edgemont, SD Drinking Water Supply

Hi Victor –
I talked to Mark Mayer, DW Program Director at SD DENR, to get more information on the history of the Edgemont water system. Edgemont has had some samples for gross alpha that have triggered MCL violations. They have come back below the MCL without making any changes in treatment or their water source (just variations in source water gross alpha levels). Edgemont has two source wells completed into the Madison formation – one is 3500 ft deep and the other is 3200 ft deep. Both are flowing, artesian wells. The SD Drinking Water State Revolving Fund did just award Edgemont $3.8M to install a treatment system for rads and heavy metals. Edgemont is doing this on their own – it's not being required by SD DENR.

There are a few other small communities in the same area that also occasionally have high levels of gross alpha. Provo, SD is one that recently exceeded.

SD DENR has not made a direct connection between historical mining activities and rads levels in the Madison formation. They have attributed these exceedances to geologic sources.

You probably already know this, but Mark also mentioned they have recently been trying to get more and more info online. He sent me links to two websites:

- SD geologic survey which has worked hard to collect and present data that we have in a GIS format http://www.sdgs.usd.edu/
- Water rights web search http://denr.sd.gov/des/wr/dbwrsearch.aspx

Some of the other groups at DENR (GW, haz waste, and mining/minerals) may have more information if you want to reach out.

Please let me know if you have any questions.
Thanks!

Sarah E. Bahrman | Director, Safe Drinking Water Program | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 8
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From: Ketellapper, Victor
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 9:34 AM
To: Bahrman, Sarah <Bahrman.Sarah@epa.gov>
Cc: Chisholm, Joseph <chisholm.joseph@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Edgemont, SD Drinking Water Supply

I would like an opinion on if there is a risk to the Edgemont water supply. I need to determine if a Superfund program assessment is needed.

I am on work travel, so won't be able to be part of the discussions.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 23, 2017, at 8:20 AM, Bahrman, Sarah <Bahrman.Sarah@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Victor –
Douglas is out, so I've copied in Valois Shea who was also at the hearings and can speak to whether this issue was raised there.

I did a search on the EPA Envirofacts website to look at the compliance history for the City of Edgemont's drinking water system. https://iaspub.epa.gov/enviro/sdw_form_v3.create_page?state_abbr=SD

That site shows Edgemont had MCL violation for gross alpha (excluding Radon and U) from April 2009 – June 2010, and came back into compliance in March of 2011. There are no reported Uranium MCL violations. I'll have our South Dakota state oversight lead in the drinking water program get more information on this history from SD DENR (e.g. what levels of gross alpha were in finished water, and what changes Edgemont made to come back into compliance). Please let me know if you'd like to be part of those discussions, or if you have additional questions you would like us to follow-up on with SD DENR.

Thanks,
Sarah

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From: Ketellapper, Victor
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 3:01 PM
To: Bahrman, Sarah <Bahrman.Sarah@epa.gov>; Minter, Douglas <Minter.Douglas@epa.gov>
Cc: Chisholm, Joseph <chisholm.joseph@epa.gov>
Subject: Edgemont, SD Drinking Water Supply

Sarah and Douglas,

In the attached letter from Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) requesting the Superfund site assessment be reopened, she discusses uranium contamination in the City of Edgemont's (South Dakota) public water supply had occurred as a result of historic mining. She said this issue was raised during EPA's public hearings on the Azarga UIC permits and by a past Mayor of Edgemont. Are either of you familiar with the this issue being raised either during the hearings or by the SD drinking water program? Is the water provided by the Edgemont public water supply contain levels of uranium above the MCL?

Victor

Victor Ketellapper, PE
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