Message

From: Crumlish, Karen [Crumlish.Karen@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/21/2021 5:06:57 PM
To: Sternberg, David [Sternberg.David@epa.gov]; Yap-deffler, Yazmine [Yap-Deffler.Yazmine@epa.gov]; Taylor, Daniel [taylor.daniel@epa.gov]; Mandell, Alexander [mandell.alexander@epa.gov]
CC: Landis, Jeffrey [Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov]; Zieba, Kyle [Zieba.Kyle@epa.gov]; White, Terri-A [White.Terri-A@epa.gov]; Gaffney, Kristeen [gaffney.kristeen@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Media Inquiry (follow up) - AP - Blades Nonresponsive based on revised scope

Thanks, David. One correction: Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) has SDWA primacy in Delaware (not DNREC).
Please let me know if you have any questions.
Thank you,
Karrie

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Phone: (215) 814-3398

From: Sternberg, David <Sternberg.David@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 11:28 AM
To: Yap-deffler, Yazmine <Yap-Deffler.Yazmine@epa.gov>; Taylor, Daniel <taylor.daniel@epa.gov>; Mandell, Alexander <mandell.alexander@epa.gov>
Cc: Landis, Jeffrey <Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Zieba, Kyle <Zieba.Kyle@epa.gov>; White, Terri-A <White.Terri-A@epa.gov>; Crumlish, Karen <Crumlish.Karen@epa.gov>; Gaffney, Kristeen <gaffney.kristeen@epa.gov>
Subject: Media Inquiry (follow up) - AP - Blades Nonresponsive based on revised scope

Here's the draft recommended response to latest follow up from Randall Chase of AP based on input received. Let me know your thoughts.

Thanks,

David

Can you please provide dates regarding the "several (virtual) meetings" that were held prior to the recent installation of monitoring wells at the Blades site? I can't find any public notice or news release from the EPA regarding those meetings, but I did find notices of virtual meetings regarding sites in other states.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

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Also, you say that any public notice regarding contaminated drinking water is related to finish water, not raw water. How does that square with public notices regarding contamination of wells in Blades and near Nonresponsive based on revised scope being made prior to any treatment systems being installed? Similarly, the public was notified of contamination in raw water in the Nonresponsive based on revised scope wells in July 2014 while treatment options were still being considered.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Nonresponsive based on revised scope

Nonresponsive based on revised scope

Nonresponsive based on revised scope

Nonresponsive based on revised scope

From: Chase, Randall <rchase@ap.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:57 PM

To: Sternberg, David <Sternberg.David@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Blades follow up

Hi David,
Can you please provide dates regarding the "several (virtual) meeings" that were held prior to the recent installation of monitoring wells at the Blades site? I can't find any public notice or news release from the EPA regarding those meetings, but I did find notices of virtual meetings regarding sites in other states.
Also, you say that any public notice regarding contaminated drinking water is related to finish water, not raw water. How does that square with public notices regarding contamination of wells in Blades and near Nonresponsive based on revised scope being made prior to any treatment systems being installed? Similarly, the public was notified of contamination in raw water in the Nonresponsive based on revised scope wells in July 2014 while treatment options were still being considered.

Nonresponsive based on revised scope

Thanks,
Randall

DOVER (Feb. 8, 2018) – The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) are providing bottled water for drinking and cooking to residents of the Town of Blades in Sussex County beginning Friday, Feb. 9. This response comes after all three of the town's drinking water wells returned concentrations of perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) above the human health advisory level (70 parts per trillion) following recent sampling by DNREC at the request of the US Environmental Protection Agency. DNREC worked with EPA in sampling the wells given their proximity to potential sources of PFCs from historical industrial processes in the area. Water from the Blades wells sampled, is considered safe for use by residents for bathing and laundry. Bottled water will be delivered Friday morning to the Blades Elementary School for students and staff and provided Friday at noon to all Blades residents at the Blades Fire Hall.
Alternative sources of drinking and cooking water will be provided until a permanent solution is in place. Water will be supplied to the Town of Blades by DNREC and DPH out of an abundance of caution until additional work can determine the extent of PFC contamination in the municipal wells.

From: Sternberg, David <Sternberg.David@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 9:21 AM
To: Chase, Randall <rchase@ap.org>
Subject: RE: Blades follow up

[EXTERNAL]

Hi Randall,

I apologize for the delay in getting back to you. Here is EPA's response to your most recent follow up questions.

(Blades Inquiry): You note, for example, the sampling of public wells and installation of monitoring wells in Blades last month, but there's no record of such activities or sampling results on the EPA site or DNREC's environmental navigator site. You also refer to the timeline for residential well sampling starting this summer, but have residents been notified? You note that there has been continued sampling of the public supply wells since 2018, but I can find no documentation of those sampling activities or results. Similarly, I assume there has been ongoing testing of private wells where the property owners have been provided with water filtration systems, but I can find no record of those sampling results either. Can you please provide last month's sampling results for the public wells, pre- and post-treatment, and comparative results from earlier samplings?

EPA Response for Blades - In EPA's Superfund program, informing and engaging with local communities is one of our top priorities. Prior to the recent installation of monitoring wells in Blades, EPA's site team held several (virtual) meetings with property owners, local officials, state partners and other stakeholders, and EPA continues to work closely with them on this project. EPA is still in the process of finalizing a plan for sampling residential wells. Once the residential well sampling plan is finalized, (but not before because that would be premature) EPA will be distributing letters via mail, email and door to door (with social distancing precautions), to all residents whose residential wells we would like to sample.

EPA is also currently compiling our community involvement plan (CIP) for the Blades site, which is our site-specific roadmap to inform and engage the community throughout the superfund process. In order to develop the CIP, EPA has begun conducting community interviews with residents, local elected officials, and other stakeholders. This process is ongoing, and helps EPA gather important information, and identify key community needs, questions and concerns.

EPA has also made several videos to introduce our site team to the community. We would encourage you to view these at: www.epa.gov/superfund/bladesgroundwater
We also plan to maximize the use of online resources to inform the public about our sampling efforts.

With regard to the sampling results from the public wells, please contact DNREC for that information.
DNREC Public Affairs, Michael Globetti (Michael.Globetti@delaware.gov or (302) 739-9064.

For clarification, EPA is not providing water for any residential well users. However, DNREC is providing filtration units for 8 homes whose wells tested above the HAL in 2018, which started as early as February 2018. DNREC regulates these filtration units, and has agreed to continue to provide the filtration units until we can collect and evaluate the first round of residential well sampling completed as part of the Remedial Investigation this summer. Depending on the results of that sampling we, in consultation with DNREC, will determine the best path forward regarding a more permanent solution.

Nonresponsive based on revised scope

Nonresponsive based on revised scope

David Sternberg
Press Officer

U.S. EPA

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