Message

From: Jeff Stone (ADH) [Jeffery.Stone@arkansas.gov]
Sent: 6/2/2021 1:55:51 PM
To: Mistry, Jatin [Mistry.Jatin@epa.gov]
CC: Glenn Greenway [Glenn.Greenway@arkansas.gov]; Lance Jones [lance.jones@arkansas.gov]; Jake Chatman [jake.chatman@arkansas.gov]
Subject: RE: Citizen Inquiry Humphrey, Arkansas

Jake is visiting again today.

Jeff Stone, P.E.
Director, Engineering Section
Arkansas Department of Health

From: Mistry, Jatin <Mistry.Jatin@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 8:53 AM
To: Jeff Stone (ADH) <jeffery.stone@arkansas.gov>
Cc: Glenn Greenway <Glenn.Greenway@arkansas.gov>; Lance Jones <lance.jones@arkansas.gov>; Jake Chatman <jake.chatman@arkansas.gov>
Subject: FW: Citizen Inquiry Humphrey, Arkansas

Hi Mr. Stone,

FYI, the citizen states that water quality in Humphry has not improved.

Thank You,
Jatin

From: brandi mcdermott <brandimac77@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 8:12 PM
To: Mistry, Jatin <Mistry.Jatin@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Citizen Inquiry Humphrey, Arkansas

Thank you so much for the follow up. As of today the water quality has made NO improvements. I am confident that with your help and the help of the ADH we will get these issues resolved. Thank you again for your follow up.

Sincerely,
Brandi McDermott

On Tue, Jun 1, 2021, 16:57 Mistry, Jatin <Mistry.Jatin@epa.gov> wrote:

> Hi Ms. McDermott,
>
> I wanted to let you know that EPA sent a letter to the Humphrey Water System today and attached is a letter for your reference.

In addition, ADH will be visiting this system this week for a follow up visit to see how the filters are performing and if the water quality has improved.

I have also asked ADH to verify the operation of the wastewater treatment plant.

Thank You,

Jatin

From: brandi mcdermott <brandimac77@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 1:01 PM
To: Mistry, Jatin <Mistry.Jatin@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Citizen Inquiry Humphrey, Arkansas

And just one more quick question. What was done regarding the raw sewage being dumped into the ditches? Our sewer plant hasn't ran in over 2 months and raw sewage has been dumped into the ditch outside the plant. I know that the ADH has investigated, but I hadn't heard the outcome of that. We are concerned that since our water lines are in such poor shape if the raw sewage isn't seeping into the drinking water pipes. Thank you again for everything you are doing!

Brandi

On Thu, May 27, 2021 at 11:36 AM brandi mcdermott <brandimac77@gmail.com> wrote:

> Thank you so much for your follow up! We have been closely monitoring everything as well! Does the fact that the filter is not working properly case any additonal concerns of water safety that we should be cautious of? We do not consume the water, however my family does shower using the water and I just want to make sure it is safe to do so. We know it's not safe to injest, We just want to make sure it's safe to shower with. Just to update you, there has still yet to be a notice sent out to the citizens regarding the violations.
>
> Thank you again for everything you are doing to help us!
>
> Brandi McDermott

On Thu, May 27, 2021, 11:21 Mistry, Jatin <Mistry.Jatin@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Ms. McDermott,

I wanted to let you know that a follow up visit by ADH took place this week with the Humphrey Waterworks. During this site visit, it was determined that the filters used to treat the drinking water are not functioning properly and you may still be experiencing some off colored water. ADH's Engineering team is working with Mr. Stewart on this and hopefully a resolution to address this concern is forthcoming.

If I have any additional updates, I will let you know.

Thank You,

Jatin

Jatin H. Mistry

US EPA Region 6

Drinking Water Section

1201 Elm Street, Suite 500 (6WDDD)

Dallas, TX 75270

(Voice) 214-665-7483

(Fax) 214-665-2191

Mistry.jatin@epa.gov

From: brandi mcdermott <brandimac77@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 9:31 PM
To: Mistry, Jatin <Mistry.Jatin@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Citizen Inquiry Humphrey, Arkansas

Thank you so much for your response. I can appreciate the lengths you have gone to in offering your assistance. I do however want to let you know this is not a "recent" issue. This has been going on for well over a year. I will attach photos just for your reference of multiple households throughout Humohrey whom have been and are still currently experiencing what I would have to describe as a little more serious than a simple disruption. Again I thank you very much and hopefully we can get the ball rolling to get these issues fixed. We currently have over $3,000 in clothing completely ruined this week alone. In addition. It has been brought to my attention the city has been fined in excess of $281,000 for multiple major violations and the mayor was required to send out notices to the citizens within 10 days. According to my information that was to be done within 10 days of the hearing that was held March 4. To date, no one has received the above referenced notice. If this helps you understand what we are dealing with in our current city government.

Again thank you so much for taking the time to follow up.

Sincerely,

Brandi McDermott

On Thu, May 20, 2021, 18:11 Mistry, Jatin <Mistry.Jatin@epa.gov> wrote:

Dear Ms. McDermott,

EPA Region 6 has received your inquiry regarding concerns about your drinking water. We share your concern that drinking water be safe and are continuously striving to protect the public from exposure to harmful contaminants.

EPA Region 6 has contacted the drinking water operator with the Humphrey Waterworks and the Arkansas Department of Health's (ADH) Engineering Section to assist with your question.

The drinking water for your area is provided by the Humphrey Waterworks public water system with identification number AR010. For more information on this water system, please contact Mr. Jimmy Stewart at 870-873-4615.

On May 18, 2021, EPA Region 6 spoke with Mr. Stewart at the Humphrey Waterworks who stated that due to recent pumping issues with the potassium permanganate solution, this was causing an upset in the water system's ability to

successfully oxidize and filter out the iron and manganese from the raw water. Due to this issue, off colored water was experienced within the distribution system. Mr. Stewart also informed EPA that he was aggressively flushing the

distribution system to remove as much of the off colored water from the system. However, due to the limited number of flushing hydrants in the system, Mr. Stewart is unable to focus on one particular area for a concentrated flushing exercise.

I also want to inform you that on May 18, 2021, Mr. Jake Chatman, ADH District 4 Engineer, visited the Humphrey Waterworks and met with Mr. Stewart. Mr. Chatman provided technical assistance to Mr. Chatman regarding

his current backwash procedure and ways to optimize the potassium permanganate feed rate. During this time, Mr. Chatman also collected a special bacteriological sample from the water system and those results are currently pending.

I want to also report to you that the monthly bacteriological samples for the Humphrey Waterworks were collected on May 7, 2021, and all three sites were negative for the detection of total coliforms and the chlorine residual was 2.2 mg/L at each site.

For your reference, attached is the 2020 Consumer Confidence Report for the Humphrey Waterworks. In this report you will notice that the Humphry Waterworks received violations in the year 2020 for not collecting their monthly bacteriological

samples, not distributing the 2019 Consumer Confidence Report, and not having a certified operator. I want to let you know that the Humphrey Waterworks is now making progress in 2021 on returning to compliance whereby they are

collecting their monthly bacteriological samples and are scheduled to distribute their 2020 Consumer Confidence Report by July 1, 2021. Mr. Stewart has informed EPA that he is working towards his ADH Drinking Water Certification.

He is currently taking the necessary distribution and treatment courses and is planning to take the certification examination in July 2021.

Regarding our conversation on potential funding avenues for the Humphrey Waterworks, EPA Region 6 contacted Ms. Debby Dickson with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Fiscal Department for further follow up.

Ms. Dickson can be reached at 501-682-0548 or debra.dickson@arkansas.gov.

In addition, please see the following resources for financial options for the water system:

- EPA's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

https://www.epa.gov/drinkingwatersrf

- United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Program

https://www.rd.usda.gov/page/all-programs#WEP

If you have further questions, please let me know.

Thank you,

Jatin Mistry

Jatin H. Mistry

US EPA Region 6

Drinking Water Section

1201 Elm Street, Suite 500 (6WDDD)

Dallas, TX 75270

(Voice) 214-665-7483

(Fax) 214-665-2191

Mistry.jatin@epa.gov