Message

From: Longenecker-Wright, Zoe [LongeneckerWright.Zoe@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/27/2023 6:04:22 PM
To: Galarza-Hernandez, Arlin [Galarza-Hernandez.Arlin@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Drinking Water Update - Philadelphia Office

Do you know if we will get an update on the Tuesday situation before midnight tonight or is it going to be a wake up and check the email first before coming in situation. Just so I know if I need to bring a bunch of water or whatnot to the office etc.

Thanks,

Zoe

From: Esher, Diana <Esher.Diana@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 1:40 PM
Subject: Drinking Water Update - Philadelphia Office

Good afternoon,

Those of you in Philadelphia may have received an alert at your home or as you traveled to the office today regarding the drinking water.

Here's an update to answer your questions about drinking the water and coming into the office.

Is the water safe to drink?
The Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) is confident tap water from the Baxter Drinking Water Treatment Plant will remain safe to drink and use at least through 11:59 p.m. Monday, March 27, 2023. There is no need to buy water at this time. Customers can fill bottles or pitchers with tap water with no risk at this time.

Where can I get more information?
PWD will provide a media update at approximately 5 p.m. today. PWD is posting updates here: https://water.phila.gov/drops/phila-water-dept-monitoring-spill-at-bucks-county-facility/

Should I come into the office?
Yes, you should come into the Philadelphia office for your regularly scheduled work hours. The Office is open and you can use the tap and water stations. In the event that the office was closed, we would send an office closure alert through texts, emails and voicemails to employees.

What happened that caused this alert from PWD?

At approximately 11:23 pm Friday March 24, 2023t, the NRC received a report of a release of approximately 90,000 lbs of an acrylic polymer from the Trinseo/Altuglas facility in Bristol, Bucks County, PA. Local and neighboring facility hazmat teams responded. EPA R3 On Site Coordinator, Coast Guard, and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection also responded. While the product initially entered secondary containment on Site, the product did reach Otter Creek and eventually the Delaware River.

Note that all sample results to date from the drinking water intakes have been non-detect. Sampling is ongoing to continue to track levels in the river and near drinking water intakes. EPA R3 is conducting daily calls and will continue until the group determines that the response and any drinking water concerns are over.

Please look out for future updates.

Diana

Diana Esher
Deputy Regional Administrator
US EPA Mid-Atlantic Region
Phone 215-814-2706
Email esher.diana@epa.gov