To: Howard, MarkW[Howard.MarkW@epa.gov]
From: Armstrong, Joan
Sent: Sun 1/12/2014 5:57:46 PM
Subject: FW: HOTSITE REPORT: Update - Freedom Industries, Charleston, WV

Latest that I have

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From: Burns, Francis
Sent: Saturday, January 11, 2014 8:45 PM
To: R3 HOTSITES
Subject: HOTSITE REPORT: Update - Freedom Industries, Charleston, WV

EPA finalized a statement concerning the Freedom Industries incident as follows:

EPA continues to work closely with other Federal and State agencies in West Virginia as they begin implementing a plan for getting the water system back on-line. The State of West Virginia and the West Virginia American Water Company (WVAWC) are developing a plan for flushing the system, along with sampling and analysis, that will allow residents to begin using their water as soon as possible. State and Federal (ATSDR/CDC) health officials have agreed that a level of 1 part per million (ppm) of methylcyclohexanemethanol is protective of public health and the State/WVAWC will use the flushing process to assure that and the 1 ppm level is achieved throughout the system. The EPA supports this approach and has offered sampling and monitoring assistance to the State during the restart efforts.

OSCs Matlock and Linden reported the status of activities at the facility. Throughout the day, the facility continued vacuuming the mixture out of excavated pits in the tank farm area. The facility placed a piece of plastic into the cut-off ditch downhill from the tank farm. The plastic layer should lessen the amount of mixture soaking into the soil. The facility also added a pump to assist the vac truck in pumping the mixture out of the ditch and up the hill.

The smell on the facility property is less than observed yesterday, but could be because of the rain and increased wind speeds. EPA's contractor conducted air monitoring earlier and mapped the air monitoring readings, which are on the site website, www.epaosc.org/CharlestonWVChemicalLeak . The difference today between total VOCs is minimally less than yesterday, but again the higher winds may be dispersing the fumes, which could account for the difference in ppm.

This morning the facility's contractor was using a torch to remove the bolts on the manway cover of the tank. OSHA was on-site and stopped the operation until a wrench could be found to remove the bolts. The tanks will need to be emptied and then cleaned from the inside (permit required confined space entry). This work is currently under way for the failed tank (tank no. 396). The two tanks on either side will undergo a similar process. Once the tanks are cleaned, they will be cut up and removed from the site. After the three tanks are removed, product trapped under tanks' concrete pad can be vacuumed out. The tank removal will take several days.

Region 3 Water Division spoke with Steve Allgeier, team leader for technical support to the Water Security Division, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, who reported that EPA is working with the utility to investigate treatment options for the chemical, including additional literature research and bench scale studies at other utilities. In addition, EPA's Ft. Meade lab has started looking into lab support for the chemical analysis or finding labs that can provide support through the laboratory response network.

FEMA is scaling down the Philadelphia RRC and ramping up the FEMA IMAT in the field. EPA OSCs will continue to coordinate with FEMA OPS at the EOC. DHS is bringing in their Office of Health affairs (OHA) to provide technical/scientific support for decision making.