To: Bissonette, Eric[Bissonette.Eric@epa.gov]
From: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Sent: Tue 1/14/2014 2:20:32 AM
Subject: RE: EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV - Update #9
ATT00001.txt

10-4. Thanks Eric.

From: Bissonette, Eric [mailto:Bissonette.Eric@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2014 8:47 PM
To: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Subject: RE: EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV - Update #9

I would flush and then replace the carbon filter on your refrigerator if you have one. Also, I'd let the hot water run for a 20 minutes to flush your hot water heater. Once you flush those you've probably emptied your house and plumbing of that water and you're good to shower. Also for the next 3 or 4 days let the kitchen faucet run until the water is cold before using to drink (60 to 90 seconds or so).

From: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2014 8:34:48 PM
To: Bissonette, Eric
Subject: RE: EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV - Update #9

Hey Eric,

Thanks for the additional info. The ban has lifted where I live. (I still need to "flush" tonight.) Even though the ban has lifted, would you feel comfortable using the water to take a shower/make ice, etc. right away or would you still wait a day or two? Some of my buddies have told me the water still smells like licorice. I hate to sound paranoid (and granted, I've watched Erin Brockovitch more than once) but I there's been so little information released by state/government officials (it's the good 'ole boys network here and not a meritocracy), should I feel comfortable that the water is now safe or should I still be cautious for a few more days?

Thanks either for the reassurance or validating my skepticism isn't necessarily a bad thing.

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: Bissonette, Eric [mailto:Bissonette.Eric@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2014 7:59 PM
To: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Subject: Fw: EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV – Update #9

Looks like ban is beginning to be lifted.

From: Eoc, Epahq
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2014 7:53:53 PM
Subject: EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV – Update #9

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EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV – Update #9

US Environmental Protection Agency

Report as of 2000 January 13, 2014

Overview: On January 10, the President approved an Emergency Declaration for the State of West Virginia after a chemical leaked at a Freedom Industries chemical plant and into the Elk River in Charleston, WV. The spill occurred near the Kanawha Valley Water Treatment Plant which detected the chemical even after an increased carbon treatment effort was put in place. Freedom Industries is working to clean up the spill at the facility and in the river.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: West Virginia water authorities have issued a "Do Not Use Water Notice" for 10 counties and the President's Emergency Declaration covers eight counties. West Virginia American Water (WVAW) customers are told not to use tap water for drinking, cooking, washing, or bathing. Water can be used for toilets and fire emergencies. This is believed to impact 100,000 customers (300,000 people).

The "DO NOT USE" water advisory in place for 300,000 West Virginians will begin lifting today by zone and according to proximity to the water plant. Area hospitals were flushed first this morning and then it was announced that Zone 1 was given the go-ahead to begin. A Water Company official said 90% of their samples are now well below the health risk level for HCHM. National Guard Gen. Hoyer said over 600 samples have been taken and 264 analyzed.

The public can check maps to find out their zones and when to begin flushing at this website: http://www.amwater.com/wvaw/about-us/news.html or by calling the Hotline number at 855-390-4569. Local county health department officials are also fanning out into the communities to provide counsel and assistance.

The availability of bottled water and water buffalos continues to improve. Grocery stores are re-supplied and even a few restaurants/bars are slowly reopening once their potable water plan has been approved by local health department.

Chemical Safety Board (CSB) personnel arrived at the facility to conduct an investigation. The CSB estimated that their investigation will be completed this Friday, January 17, 2014. Their initial steps included interviewing the facility owners, WVDEP, USCG, and EPA. The facility is cooperating with the CSB. USCG offered the CSB a facility file, as the facility was formerly regulated. WVDEP offered the CSB a Brownfield file from the late 1990's.

A geoprobe was used to punch holes into the ground at the facility. Two holes were punched to the southeast (behind the tanks along the road side) and three holes were punched along the bank that leads to the river below the spill area. No MCHM odor was detected by the contractors in any of the locations.

WVDEP requested that a portion of the boom in the river near the immediate spill area be kept close to the shore. The downstream boom remains across the entire river. The boom is now catching a minimal amount of debris. The contractors are checking the boom by flipping it every 30-45 minutes, and replacing it when dirty.

The facility contractors completed pumping the storm water into a tanker truck from the trenched area at the base of the bank. The contractors cut the leaking storm water pipe and placed sand bags just beneath it to contain the water in a pooled area. This water will be continually pumped to a tanker truck.

EPA Actions: The onsite OSCs are providing technical assistance and are relying on HQ and Region 3 reachback expertise in the Water and other Offices. EPA is conducting investigations into the compliance programs that have jurisdiction over this facility to ensure all requirements are being followed and enforced.

Media Interest: High

The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed.

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Tim Grier, Senior Watch Officer

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

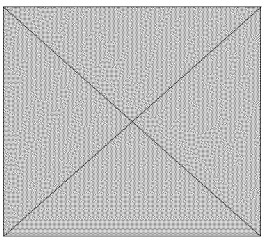
Headquarters Emergency Operations Center

1200 Pennsylvania Ave

Washington, DC 20004

202-564-3850 202-564-8729 (fax)

mailto:eoc.epahq@epa.gov



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