To: Carroll, Gregory[Carroll.Gregory@epa.gov]
From: Bissonette, Eric
Sent: Mon 1/13/2014 6:34:41 PM
Subject: FW: OW Management Report - Charleston, WV Chemical Spill - 1/13/2014
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From: Tingley, Kevin
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2014 1:15 PM
To: Best-Wong, Benita; Bissonette, Eric; Clark, Becki; Evans, David; Frace, Sheila; Grevatt, Peter; Lape, Jeff; Lopez-Carbo, Maria; Newberry, Debbie; Pickard, Brian; Sawyers, Andrew; Shapiro, Mike; Southerland, Elizabeth; Stoner, Nancy; Tidwell-Shelton, Patricia; Tingley, Kevin; Travers, David; Workman, Rosemary
Cc: Hedrick, Elizabeth; Allgeier, Steve; EOC Situation Unit; EOC Incident Coordinator
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(The main sources for this information are an OEM Spot Report issued on 1/12/14, the FEMA Daily Operations Report dated 1/13/14, WARN information from Kevin Morley of AWWA, Michael Lapinski (the DHS-FEMA Federal Coordinating Official (FCO)), and sampling/analysis/treatment information from Elizabeth Hedrick and Steve Allgeier of EPA. New information since the latest OW Management Report is highlighted.)

Situation:

On January 10, the President approved an Emergency Declaration for the State of West Virginia after a chemical leaked through a secondary containment area at a Freedom Industries chemical plant and into the Elk River in Charleston, WV (pop. 51,018) (NRC#1070627). The chemical (MCHM) (4-methylcyclohexanemethanol) is a flammable solvent used in the coal preparation process and is an irritant to eyes, respiratory system, and skin. FEMA reports that up to 7,500 gallons of chemical leaked in the Elk River near the Kanawha Valley Water Treatment Plant. Based on river flow dilution, officials calculate the chemical concentration in the water to be

well below the CDC declared safe level. The Kanawha Valley Water Treatment Plant detected the chemical even after the increased carbon treatment effort was put in place. Freedom Industries is working to clean up the spill at the facility and in the river.

Operators at the Kanawha Valley Water Treatment Plant reported that they could still smell the contaminant even though it was well below the 1.0 mg/L concentration deemed "safe for use" by ATSDR/CDC. It is possible that they were detecting the odorant that was added to the chemical.

Labs and Sampling:

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR) has been getting lab support established for both West Virginia American Water (WVAW) and the State. DuPont has been providing support in preparing labs and getting analysts trained. Labs now include: State lab (WVDHHR and possibly WVDEP); DuPont; WVAV (Huntington); two National Guard Civil Support Teams (Canton, OH and Washington, DC). WVAW is in the process of getting two contractor labs on board (Matrix and Test America), who have either multiple GC units or several laboratories. The WV National Guard is transporting samples to the labs in DC and OH. The labs will enable the State to process a large number of samples involved in the distribution system testing.

The emergency response method was approved by the CDC ASTDR. As CDC is in the ICLN we expect that they applied the same emergency response method validation guidelines that the EPA would have.

The latest sample results indicate that the treated water has been consistently less than 1 ppm MCHM over 24 hours, so the water company may now be ready to move to distribution system (DS) sampling. Recent intake (raw river water) samples were very low or non-detect. The recent rain may have helped by diluting the chemical, but the rain may have washed more chemical through the soil into the river.

WVAW and the State are working on getting the drinking water data into an organized electronic format, which will be shared with ATSDR and EPA as well as articulated plans, as developed.

There are no validated drinking water methods for MCHM, its impurities, or the added odorant for the material that was spilled. For the remediation stage, there may be a need for a method for MCHM, impurities and possibly disinfection products. There may be a need for labs to separate high concentration work from low concentration work because of cross-contamination issues.

Treatment:

Two utilities on the Ohio River, downstream of the point where the Kanawha River feeds into the Ohio River have tested powder activated carbon for removal of MCHM. Under the conditions tested, they found that 100 lbs per million gallons achieved greater than 84% removal. Note that one of the utilities is using a version of EPA method 524.3, which uses a GC-MS instrument, rather than a GC-FID which is the instrument used in the Eastman method.

System Flushing:

There is no specific flushing plan for the system yet. The plan will depend on sampling results. One key will be flushing in individual homes/buildings. Procedures for residents to follow are being developed. WVAW will not flush entire system or resume unrestricted use all at once, because the draw on system would be too severe (esp. in combination with broken lines owing to cold weather). There is no specific timeline for lifting restrictions. The timeline will be dictated by the sampling results. Even if results show concentrations < 1 ppm MCHM, there may be residual odor at 0.1 ppm. Customers may be reluctant to use the water, even if the level is protective of health. The water restrictions will be relieved by zone, as results and flushing allow. The restrictions may not be removed in stages of stringency (e.g., "Do Not Use" to "Do Not Drink" to no restriction) as previously contemplated, as that approach may cause too much confusion for customers, particularly if done by zones. This is not yet been decided.

To support the future purge process, West Virginia American Water announced they will apply a 1,000 gallon credit for all customers. Additionally, written guidance will be provided to customers on how to purge their household plumbing and plumbing appliances.

Federal Activities:

The FEMA Regional Response Coordination Center has transition to Level III operations; all ESFs were released, but remain on standby.

The only federal role in testing and analysis of the water quality was CDC ATSDR approving the protocols for sampling and analysis of MCHM and providing the documentation on how they arrived at the at the figure of 1.0 parts per million (ppm) as the point where there are no adverse health effects.

EPA has not been asked to support the water system remediation effort. While EPA has received some data, we have not been asked to review the data, review flushing and resumption of service plans, or concurring with any response decisions.

WARN report:

WVAW has reported that they have sufficient analytical resources at this time. No additional resources are required at this time.

Anticipated Activity:

No calls scheduled.

Kevin Tingley, P.E.

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