To: Allgeier, Steve[Allgeier.Steve@epa.gov]
From: WaterISAC
Sent: Fri 1/10/2014 8:35:59 PM
Subject: WaterISAC Advisory: Water Restrictions Implemented in Response to Chemical Leak into West Virginia's Elk River

Not for Public Dissemination

WaterISAC Members:

In response to a significant chemical leak into the Elk River on Thursday, January 9, West Virginia water authorities have issued a “Do Not Use Water Notice” for 10 counties: Kanawha, Boone, Putnam, Lincoln, Logan, Clay, Roane, Jackson, Cabell, and Wayne. This incident affects a water treatment plant that has water intakes downstream of the leak. The facility is the largest water treatment plant in West Virginia and provides roughly 30-40 million gallons of water per day, and the tap water restriction is affecting as many as 300,000 people. FEMA reports the water treatment plant has not been shut down and remains pressurized; there are no current plans to shut down the plant.

Between 2,000 and 5,000 gallons of 4-Methylcyclohexane Methanol leaked out of a 40,000 gallon holding tank along the Elk River in Charleston, West Virginia. An unknown amount of that quantity subsequently leaked through a secondary barrier and seeped through the ground and into the river. The chemical is a flammable solvent used in the coal preparation process and is non-toxic but an irritant to the eyes, respiratory system, and skin.

Water company and state environmental officials are conducting hourly tests of the water. Based on river flow dilution, chemical concentration in the water is approximately .005 parts per million. Concentration is well below the CDC declared safe level of less than 1 ppm.

The White House has approved a request for a federal emergency declaration to assist with the chemical spill. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has dispatched 75 tractor trailers with bottled water; this shipment is expected to arrive in Charleston on Friday.

WaterISAC has placed additional information regarding this event on a page on its secure Portal. Select this link to navigate to this page (*access to this page is limited to U.S. Pro Members*).

WaterISAC will continue to monitor this event and provide updates as necessary.

Please contact me with any questions.

Very Respectfully,

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The above information is not to be released to the public, the media, or other personnel who do not have a valid need to know without prior approval of an authorized official.

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