From: Pellegrino, Carl
To: Lenox, Dominique
Subject: Info on Dorado site
Date: Friday, October 13, 2017 9:54:00 PM

Dominique –

The following is provided:

EPA is in the process of securing the locations where people have been observed taking water.
Some of the well are approved for consumption via PRDOH and PRASA – the Santa Rosa and Nevarez well.
Two wells that have been accessed, Maguayo 2 and 6, do not have PCE above the MCL (drinking water standard).
It was observed that people were filling a portable cistern at well Maguayo 4.
EPA contractors are in the process of securing the areas. The fence and gate was re-secured at well 6.
EPA Community Involvement Coordinators (CICs) have spoken to people in the community, and residents have cited a need for the water. CIC's have stressed the concerns of drinking contaminated water.
CICs will continue to deliver the message in the neighborhood.
EPA is currently having warning signs created for posting.
Contractors will continue to re-secure the perimeter.
EPA is planning to sample the wells within the following days for bacteria and VOCs, metals.
FEMA has coordinated water distribution in the area.
PREPA is indicating the area should be energized within the near future.

The Dorado Groundwater Contamination NPL site consists of 13 wells distributed in a wide area in the municipality of Dorado. This is a recently designated NPL site, designated in December 2016. For the initial designation of this site, groundwater monitoring studies were completed by EPA and its contractors on September 2015. Seven wells in the Maguayo community were found to exceed local and federal drinking water standards for volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Since this is an aquifer, other wells in the near distance of the Maguayo community where included in the NPL site as a precautionary measure, even though their contamination did not exceed local and federal drinking water standards.

<u>How bad is the contamination at the Santa Rosa well?</u>
There is VOC presence however below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). Both the Santa Rosa well and the Nevarez well (next to it at to the shopping mall at the entrance to the municipality of Dorado from Highway #52) were included in the NPL (Superfund) site designation as a precautionary measure. During the NPL site designation studies, these wells did not exceed the local and federal drinking water standards. The PR Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA) has authorization by the PR Department of Health to use the Santa Rosa and Nevarez wells since they have not exceeded the drinking water standards. The Department of Health and PRASA conduct frequent water quality monitoring at these wells, according to local regulations.

What are the health concerns from the Santa Rosa well?
VOCs are known carcinogens. However, below the MCL, no health risks are expected. EPA assessed these wells in September 2015.

How concerned is EPA that (based on observations today) water from this well is not only being used as drinking water but is being distributed en masse.
Water IS being used as drinking water because the analysis run by PRASA showed low levels of VOCs. Department of Health authorized the distribution of the water. We have requested copies of the lab results but have not received them yet. However, EPA is concerned with the tampering of other wells in the Maguayo community (for example Maguayo 2, 4, and 6 wells) and is undertaking actions to fence off and assure that the local community does not these wells.

What steps will EPA take at Santa Rosa and the other wells and when?
We are replacing signs and fences but it is the PRDOH who, based on samples collected by PRASA, authorize the use of the wells for drinking water in accordance with Safe Water Drinking Act (SWDA) requirements.