



Maryland

Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan, Governor
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Horacio Tablada, Secretary
Suzanne E. Dorsey, Deputy Secretary

November 1, 2022

Mr. Ed Arellano
Environmental Health Director
Cecil County Health Department
401 Bow Street
Elkton, Maryland 21921

**RE: PETROLEUM IMPACT TO MONITORING WELL IN A
HIGH RISK GROUNDWATER USE AREA
Case No. 2023-0161-CE
Eagle's Nest
2754 Augustine Herman Highway, Chesapeake City
Cecil County, Maryland
Facility I.D. No. 2682**

Dear Mr. Arellano:

This letter is provided in compliance with Section 4-411.2 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland and Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.10.07.02.B.(2)(b)(ii), which require notification be provided to “the appropriate local health department of a finding that a groundwater monitoring well sample taken from a high-risk groundwater use area” contains certain levels of petroleum related contaminants. On September 23, 2022, the Maryland Department of the Environment’s (MDE) Oil Control Program (OCP) received notification of the detection of 3 inches of liquid phase hydrocarbons (LPH) in ground water monitoring well MW-2. During a site inspection on September 30, 2022, the OCP required the recovery of LPH and collection of a groundwater sample. On October 20, 2022, the MDE-OCP received a report of detections of benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes above the notification limits in groundwater monitoring well MW-2, located on the subject property, which is owned by DJS Realty, LLC with the underground storage tanks (USTs) owned and operated by Mr. Dharmash Patel.

There are three monitoring wells on the station property used for monitoring in compliance with the State’s high risk groundwater use area (HRGUA) regulations. Samples collected from monitoring wells MW-1 and MW-3 were non-detect (ND) for petroleum constituents. Monitoring well MW-2 is located to the north of the active UST system. The sample collected from MW-2 detected benzene at a concentration of 6,520 parts per billion (ppb), toluene at concentration of 75,200 ppb, ethylbenzene at a concentration of 18,400 ppb, and total xylenes at a concentration of 120,800 ppb. Sampling of the drinking water well was required, and the results are pending. In response to the findings, OCP required the collection of samples from the tank field pipes and an enhanced fluid recovery (EFR) event to remove LPH from MW-2.

OCP Compliance Division staff conducted an initial review of the UST systems and did not find evidence of an active or ongoing release from the UST systems. At the time of the inspection, OCP personnel were told of an estimated 15-gallon surface spill that had occurred on November 22, 2021. Photos provided revealed that the spilled fuel pooled in the area of MW-2.

Due to the detection of impacts to the on-site monitoring well, OCP has contacted select nearby properties to request access for water supply well sampling. Once results from the upcoming initial round of select supply well sampling are received, OCP will evaluate the need for additional actions. Based on the recently reported data, the sampling frequency of the on-site monitoring wells and supply well will be increased to quarterly. The MDE appreciates Cecil County Health Department and the Town of Chesapeake City's continued cooperation with this effort. The OCP will continue to keep you updated on site findings.

Section 4-411.2 of the Environment Article also requires upon notification of contamination in a designated HRGUA: "the Department shall notify each owner of property within one-half mile of the site from which the sample was taken." Notification to the property owners must be made by certified mail and provide the property owner with information regarding the detection of contamination at the site. The MDE appreciates the Cecil County Health Department providing addresses and a site map for all property owners within a half-mile radius of the subject property. The MDE is currently preparing the required property owner notification letter, which will be mailed on, or before, November 15, 2022, to approximately 57 property owners. A copy of the notification letter to the property owners and other related site correspondences will be provided to the Cecil County Health Department and the Town of Chesapeake City.

If you have any questions, please contact the case manager, Ms. Lindley Campbell, at 410-537-3387 or lindley.campbell1@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,



Christopher H. Ralston, Program Manager
Oil Control Program

cc: Mr. Darmash Patel, Eagle's Nest, DJS Realty, LLC
Mr. Robert Bernstine, Town Manager of Chesapeake City
Mr. Robert Peoples, Division Chief, Source Protection and Administration Division, Water Supply Program, MDE
Mr. Andrew B. Miller, Chief, Remediation Division, Oil Control Program, MDE



Groundwater Investigation

Eagle's Nest / Chesapeake City Exxon

The Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Oil Control Program (OCP) received notification of elevated petroleum constituents in the groundwater and is currently evaluating this notification for the Eagle's Nest Chesapeake City Exxon, located at 2754 Augustine Herman Highway in Chesapeake City. This facility is owned and operated by DJS Realty, LLC and has been an active gasoline retail station under various ownership since the early 1960s. The OCP has opened new case number 2023-0161CE.

Site Location

In January 1986, four underground storage tanks (USTs) were installed at the site: one 8,000-gallon gasohol, one 4,000-gallon gasohol, one 8,000-gallon diesel, and 1,000-gallon kerosene. The 1,000-gallon kerosene UST was permanently closed-in-place in August 2010. The USTs are cathodically protected steel with an impressed current system, with single-walled fiberglass piping. Currently, three groundwater monitoring wells and a transient non-community drinking water supply well are located on site.

Site History

Three monitoring wells were installed under closed OCP case number 1999-2964CE and retained for the purposes of groundwater monitoring pursuant to the State's high-risk groundwater use area (HRGUA) regulations, Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.10.07.04. Throughout the case, sampling of the monitoring well network exhibited detections of benzene, MTBE, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes. Sampling results for the on-site supply well were non-detect for petroleum related constituents. Case No. 1999-2964-CE was closed on February 23, 2011. However, annual sampling of the groundwater monitoring well network and the on-site drinking water supply well continued to be a requirement to meet the HRGUA regulations.

Environmental Investigations and Actions

On September 23, 2022, the MDE received notification of the detection of 3 inches of liquid phase hydrocarbons (LPH) in ground water monitoring well MW-2. During a site inspection conducted on September 30, 2022, the OCP required the recovery of LPH and collection of a groundwater sample. On October 20, 2022, the MDE-OCP received a report of dissolved phase petroleum-related constituents in MW-2 at concentrations exceeding the regulatory standard. The analytical results for the groundwater monitoring well samples collected on October 5, 2022, exhibited concentrations of the following petroleum constituents above MDE's groundwater standards:

- Benzene in MW-2 at 6,520 ppb, which is above the 5 ppb standard;
- Toluene in MW-2 at 75,200 ppb, which is above the 1,000 ppb standard;



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

Groundwater Investigation

Eagle's Nest / Chesapeake City Exxon

- Ethylbenzene in MW-2 at 18,400 ppb, which is above the 700 ppb standard; and
- Xylene in MW-2 at 120,800 ppb, which is above the 10,000 ppb standard.

Current Status

Based on the September 23, 2022, presence of LPH in a monitoring well, MDE opened Case No. 2023-0161-CE. Also, MDE is working with the Cecil County Health Department to notify property owners within one-half mile of the site as required by state law. The MDE will evaluate the status of the case and determine if DJS Realty, LLC will be required to perform additional actions.

Future Updates

Postings available on www.mde.maryland.gov

File available at MDE's headquarters in Baltimore.

CONTACTS

Oil Control Program: 410-537-3442 or 1-800-633-6101, ext. 3442

Cecil County Health Department: 410-996-5550

Eagle's Nest: 410-885-2014

DISCLAIMER

The intent of this fact sheet is to provide the reader a summary of site events as they are contained within documents available to MDE. To fully understand the site and surrounding environmental conditions, MDE recommends that the reader review the case file, which can be requested through the Public Information Act. The inclusion of a person or company's name within this fact sheet is for informational purposes only and should not be considered a conclusion by MDE on liability, involvement in a wrongful act, or contribution to environmental damage.