

# Town of Chestertown



118 N. Cross Street, Chestertown, MD 21620  
tel: 410-778-0500 fax: 410-778-4378  
email: [office@chestertown.com](mailto:office@chestertown.com)  
url: [www.townofchestertown.com](http://www.townofchestertown.com)

September 21, 2020

*Mayor*  
Chris Cerino  
*Council*  
David Foster  
Thomas A. Herz, Jr.  
Rev. Ellsworth Tolliver  
Meghan E. Efland  
*Town Manager*  
William S. Ingersoll

Christopher H. Ralston, Program Manager  
Oil Control Program  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
1800 Washington Boulevard Suite 620  
Baltimore, MD 2130

Dear Mr. Ralston:

As mentioned in my September 10, 2020 letter, the Town of Chestertown values MDE's commitment and ongoing investigation of the oil remediation project being conducted at the University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Chestertown). However, the Hospital's counsel's response letter to you concerning the Town letter of September 11, 2020 indicates a disregard for the concerns of our community.

Although the Town understands the frustration that this remediation has caused the Hospital, it is important to note that the Town did not cause this problem. Having an unscientific response that ignores the Town's scientific concern only prolongs miscommunication and provides no value.

The Town does not disagree that the Agency indicated that Silica Gel could be used in conjunction with Method 8015, however unintended consequences were cited, particularly where Method 8015 is being cited as a required method. What is of considerable significance to the Town is that EPA chemists have stated (with emphasis) that silica gel will remove some of the more polar hydrocarbons, but it may also result in the loss of some petroleum hydrocarbons as well. This statement and the fact that the Town's water supply is a sensitive receptor in this ongoing remediation, confirms the need to prioritize and review scientific data.

As mentioned in last week's letter, this is a perfect time for the Town to meet with the Hospital Team. MDE and the Hospital Team could use this opportunity to discuss coordination efforts and scientific data for the ongoing remediation. It would be beneficial for the Hospital Team (Gannett Fleming) to investigate EPA scientist's concern regarding the loss of hydrocarbons in the silica gel approach prior to the meeting. The Town looks forward to further discussion with the Hospital and MDE. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Cerino", is written over the name of the Mayor. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Christopher Cerino, Mayor

cc: Mr. Kenneth Kozel, President and CEO, U ofM Shore Regional Health  
Mr. Michael Powell, Esq., Gordon Feinblatt, LLC  
Mr. John Beskid, Director, Environmental Health Programs, Kent County Health Dept.  
Ms. Julie Kuspa, Esq., Office of the Attorney General  
Mr. John Grace, Source Protection and Appropriation Div., Water Supply Program, MDE  
Mr. Saeid Kasraei, Program Manager, Water Supply Program, MDE  
Ms. Lindley Campbell, Case Manager, Remediation Division, Oil Control Program, MDE  
Ms. Susan Bull, Eastern Region Sprvsr., Remediation Division, Oil Control Program, MDE  
Mr. Andrew B. Miller, Chief, Remediation Division, Oil Control Program, MDE  
Mr. Tyler Abbot, Director, Legislative and Intergovernmental Relations, MDE