



Town of Chestertown

118 N. Cross Street, Chestertown, MD 21620
tel: 410-778-0500 fax: 410-778-4378
email: office@chestertown.com
url: www.townofchestertown.com

Mayor
David Foster
Council
Tim O'Brien
Thomas A. Herz, Jr.
Jose Medrano
Meghan E. Efland
Town Manager
William S. Ingersoll

February 8, 2023

Mr. Christopher Ralston
Program Manager, Oil Control Program (OCP)
Land and Material Administration
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard, Ste. 620
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Subject: Final 2023 Groundwater Sampling and Analysis Plan

Dear Mr. Ralston:

Thank you for incorporating several of the Town of Chestertown's (the "Town's") comments into the final 2023 Sampling and Analysis Plan ("2023 SAP") for the Chester River Hospital Center (the "Hospital") remediation project. The purpose of this letter is to express the Town's concerns with the final 2023 SAP approval dated February 2, 2023.

The Town has valued MDE's OCP oversight and transparency over the years and appreciated all opportunities to review and comment on multiple phases for this ongoing remediation. This remediation has entered its 12th year and the Town is cognizant that significant progress has been achieved. The Town believes that this achievement falls in line with our mutual goals of protecting our water supply, building public confidence, and agreeing to the reduction of the Hospital's remediation costs.

The 2023 SAP as it now stands offers the Hospital a substantial concession in groundwater monitoring trigger levels that disregards the relevant provisions of our earlier agreement with the Hospital and ultimately our mutual goals. As such, the 2023 SAP approval letter ignores the mutually agreed to detection levels of TPH DRO constituents for the wells located south of Brown Street, as specified in the June 22, 2016, Agreement between the Town of Chestertown and the Hospital ("Hospital/Town Agreement"). (The SAP approval letter incorrectly characterizes the Hospital/Town Agreement as a Settlement Agreement Consent Order ("SACO"), although as with the Hospital/MDE SACO, its provisions remain in effect.) -The Town's water production wells are located within a half mile in that southerly direction, and raising the detection level only increases the potential risk to the Town's drinking water.

Accordingly, the Town requests that MDE OCP correct and amend the SAP on page 3, #6, where it currently states:

"Groundwater concentrations exceeding 1 mg/L TPH-DRO or 0.017 mg/L naphthalene in all the following wells for three consecutive quarterly sampling events: MW-24, MW-16, MW-50, MW-49, MW-15, and MW-17."

To comply with the Hospital/Town Agreement, the Town requests that the above-quoted language on the trigger levels should be revised to provide as follows:

“Groundwater concentrations **at or exceeding 0.47 mg/L** TPH-DRO or 0.017 mg/L naphthalene in all the following wells for three consecutive quarterly sampling events: MW-24, MW-16, MW-50, MW-49, MW-15, and MW-17.”

The Town would appreciate MDE’s implementation the requested amendment. Please feel free to contact the Town if you have any questions and or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Foster". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

J. David Foster

Mayor