



## MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1800 Washington Boulevard • Baltimore MD 21230

410-537-3000 • 1-800-633-6101

Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Anthony G. Brown  
Lieutenant Governor

Shari T. Wilson  
Secretary

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.  
Deputy Secretary

October 19, 2007

Dear Resident of Jacksonville:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update on the status of the groundwater investigation and cleanup related to the ExxonMobil gasoline release in Jacksonville. I want to emphasize that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) will continue to place highest priority on overseeing this cleanup to ensure the protection of the drinking water resources of Jacksonville.

The Department has investigated the extent to which gasoline substances have been discharged into the groundwater from the release at the now closed Exxon station. The Department continues to provide regulatory oversight to ExxonMobil for its groundwater cleanup operations throughout the Jacksonville area. Of the estimated 26,500 gallons of gasoline released, cleanup actions have resulted in the recovery of 10,000 gallons of liquid gasoline with additional product being recovered in the form of vapor and dissolved constituents. This recovery is being performed from 83 specially installed wells within the study area. Groundwater treatment systems are located at two properties, the former Exxon station and 3418 Sweet Air Road. Over 26 million gallons of groundwater have been treated through these systems. Although this is a significant withdrawal of groundwater, MDE has not been able to detect any adverse effect on groundwater quantity in the Jacksonville area.

It is MDE's goal to approve reduction of the amount of groundwater being withdrawn from the area as soon as oil recovery operations allow. Currently, treated groundwater is being discharged into the Greene Branch and Sawmill Branch, located southwest and northeast of the site under the provisions of a State and Federal discharge permit. The quality of the discharged groundwater is monitored and, currently, the operations are in compliance with the discharge permit.

In order to investigate and monitor the recovery of the released gasoline plume, MDE has required the installation of a total of 227 monitoring/recovery wells in the study area. The Department has recently directed the installation of 30 additional monitoring wells to further define the extent of contamination and assist with long term monitoring. The Department has approved a sampling schedule for supply wells within the Jacksonville study area. Sampling under this schedule is ongoing and can be adjusted should site conditions change. Over 270 properties are being sampled on a routine basis to monitor for gasoline compounds. Since the initial release, 14 supply wells have been placed on individual treatment systems, which are properly functioning at this time. Currently, a total of 12 of the 14 supply wells have shown gasoline compounds above regulatory levels. The Department will continue split sampling with ExxonMobil to ensure the accuracy of the results. The split sampling is done randomly and by the state laboratory.



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The recovery efforts are controlling the migration of pollutants in the area of contamination. The recovery withdrawal southwest of the Exxon is located in the area of 14223 Robcaste Road. The recovery operations to the southwest have controlled the spread of gasoline in that direction. Recovery efforts to the northeast are located on several properties including: 3503; 3506; 3508; and 3600 Hampshire Glen Court. The spread of dissolved gasoline appears to have traveled further in the northeast direction compared to the southwest due to the geologic features in this area. Over time, the groundwater recovery in the northeast should control further movement of the gasoline plume. The Department remains concerned that the subsurface fractures may allow some amount of contaminated groundwater to migrate out of the recovery zone. This is the reason for requiring continuing sampling and requiring additional monitoring wells be added to the study area.

The Department understands the level of concern this release has caused the Jacksonville community. The Department would like to thank all the property owners who have given access for the monitoring and cleanup activities. I can assure you that MDE will continue to oversee this cleanup until this matter is resolved. Please visit MDE's website [www.mde.state.md.us](http://www.mde.state.md.us) to view the updates and maps of the area that show sampling frequency, monitoring well locations and other site data.

If the Department may be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Herbert Meade, Administrator of the Oil Control Program, at 1-800-633-6101, ext. 3443, or via e-mail at [hmeade@mde.state.md.us](mailto:hmeade@mde.state.md.us).

Sincerely,



Shari T. Wilson  
Secretary

cc: Ms. Heather Barthel, Director, Legislation and Policy  
Mr. Horacio Tablada, Director, Waste Management Administration  
Mr. Herbert Meade, Administrator, Oil Control Program

