November 15, 2022

**CERTIFIED MAIL**

**RE: INFORMATIONAL NOTIFICATION LETTER**
**Case No. 2023-0161-CE**
**Eagle's Nest**
**2754 Augustine Herman Highway, Chesapeake City**
**Cecil County, Maryland**
**Facility I.D. No. 2682**

Dear Resident or Property Owner:

This letter is provided in compliance with Section 4-411.2 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland. The intent of this letter is to notify you that petroleum-related compounds have been detected in a groundwater monitoring well sample at the above-referenced property at a concentration exceeding the statutory notification level. As a property owner within one-half mile of the subject property (see enclosed map), notification is required to be sent to you to provide information regarding the amount of contamination detected at the referenced service station. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is required to notify the property owners regardless of the source of water to the property. The green highlighted portion of the map depicts properties that are served by a public water supply (Artesian Water Company). If your water source is the public water supply, there should be no concern regarding this notification.

On September 23, 2022, MDE received notification of the detection of liquid phase hydrocarbons (LPH) (i.e., free product or oil) in groundwater monitoring well MW-2. On September 30, 2022, MDE inspected the site and required the recovery of LPH from MW-2 and the collection of a groundwater sample. On October 20, 2022, MDE received a laboratory analytical report that indicated the following concentrations were detected in MW-2 above MDE's groundwater standards:

- Benzene at a concentration of 6,520 parts per billion (ppb), which is above the 5 ppb standard;
- Toluene at a concentration of 75,200 ppb, which is above the 1,000 ppb standard;
- Ethylbenzene at a concentration of 18,400 ppb, which is above the 700 ppb standard; and
- Xylene at a concentration of 120,800 ppb, which is above the 10,000 ppb standard.

The results of samples collected from monitoring wells MW-1 and MW-3, and the on-site water supply well were non-detect (ND) for petroleum constituents. An initial review of the underground storage tank (UST) systems at the facility did not find evidence of an active or ongoing release from the UST systems. The LPH found in well MW-2 are thought to be the result of a prior surface release of fuel near MW-2.

In response to the findings of contamination in MW-2, aggressive vacuum extraction was conducted on November 3, 2022, to remove LPH from the well. A total of 483 gallons of petroleum impacted water was recovered during this event. On November 7, 2022, a second sample was collected from MW-2 and water samples were also collected from the two the tank field monitoring pipes. The analytical results for all three samples collected on November 7, 2022, were all either non-detect for petroleum constituents or below regulatory standards, with the following exception: benzene was detected in MW-2 at a concentration of 87.5 ppb.

On November 1, 2022, MDE provided official notice to the Cecil County Health Department (CCHD) of the petroleum detections and of the open investigation. MDE is working with the CCHD to evaluate risks to the community associated with the recent detections. The Eagle's Nest station will continue to monitor groundwater at the site, as directed by MDE. In addition, MDE has directed the station owner to sample certain private supply wells adjacent to the facility. MDE will evaluate the results of these selected private supply well samples and determine if additional sampling or other actions are warranted. MDE will continue to monitor the subject property to ensure community health and safety. This will include continued evaluation of the property and monitoring of the situation until the property has been investigated and the contamination mitigated to the satisfaction of MDE.

If your property is served by a private supply well and was not one of the wells that MDE directed the station owner to sample, you may elect to have your private supply well tested by a private laboratory. Your decision should be based on the proximity of your well(s) to the Eagle's Nest station and whether you have noticed any change in the taste or odor of your well water. For your convenience, enclosed is a list of private laboratories that can assist you should you decide to test your own well water. The recommended test is U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Method 524.2 for full-suite volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including fuel oxygenates and naphthalene. Samples should be collected by a certified sampler and prior to the water passing through any treatment device.

A project fact sheet has been prepared to provide information regarding the site (enclosed). The fact sheet will be updated periodically as the case progresses. The fact sheet and other documents related to the investigation will be posted to the following Oil Control Program webpage: mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/OilControl/Pages/remediationsites.aspx.

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

Enclosures: Map, Fact Sheet, and Testing Laboratory List

cc: Mr. Dharmash Patel, Eagle's Nest, DJS Realty, LLC
Mr. Robert Bernstine, Manager, Town of Chesapeake City
Mr. Ed Arellano, Environmental Health Director, Cecil County Health Department
Mr. Robert Peoples, Division Chief, Source Protection and Administration Division
Mr. Andrew B. Miller, Chief, Remediation Division, Oil Control Program
Mrs. Susan Bull, Supervisor, Remediation Division, Oil Control Program
Ms. Lindley Campbell, Case Manager, Remediation Division, Oil Control Program