

Town of Chestertown



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December 20, 2022

Christopher Ralston
Program Manager, Oil Control Program
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21230

Dear Mr. Ralston:

The Town of Chestertown (the “Town”) greatly appreciated the November 10, 2022, meeting with Shore Regional Health Chester River Hospital (“SRH”) and the Maryland Department of the Environment’s Oil Control Program (“MDE”). The purpose of this letter is to respond to the MDE required Dec. 21, 2022 comment deadline and to address the Town’s concerns regarding the SRH’s recent proposed Sampling & Analysis Plan (“SAP”) prepared by Gannett Fleming dated November 30, 2022.

SRH cites a proposed 1-year time period for SAP activities in this recent proposal. This proposed 1-year period not only conflicts with the Town and Hospital Agreement (“Town Agreement” dated June 22, 2016) of 3- years but also with the 2-year minimum cited by MDE in an April 1, 2022 MDE letter to SRH. The Town expects that a 3-year minimum SAP will be implemented in compliance with the Town Agreement and assumes that SRH’s 1-year time period for the SAP indicates that a plan for 2024 will be prepared based on data and developments in 2023.

Listed below are the Town’s additional comments and concerns regarding SRH’s proposed SAP prepared by Gannett Fleming.

Table 1: SAP Summary

- Quarterly GW Sampling frequency is incorrect in the Table – should be 1 Year (4 events) and not 1 Year (2 events).
- According to Table 2 there is a 3-year sampling plan under the Town Agreement. Table 1 needs to also reference this 3-year time Agreement timeframe and the potential restart (if elevated detection levels are observed in sentinel wells) to avoid any ambiguity, especially because the last paragraph of the proposed SAP cites a 1-year time period.
- Table 1 should also reference Table 2 to avoid any ambiguity regarding the implementation of a Contingency/Action Plan if elevated detection levels are observed pursuant to Table 2

and should state that such sampling will rely solely on EPA Method 8015 without silica gel.

Table 2: Summary of Triggers and Action Plans

- Table 2, as in the case of Table 1, should clearly state that the Triggers and Action Plan will continue to rely solely on EPA Method 8015 *without silica gel*. This should also be the case when ITRC guidance is referenced, since ITRC guidelines support the silica gel cleanup preparation method. The Town recommends adding an exclusion statement for the use of silica gel preparation when ITRC guidelines are cited.

Triggering Event Condition #1

- The Town believes there should be a triggering event condition to restart pump and treat (“P&T”) if detection levels are observed in monitoring wells south of Brown Street and a proposed action plan if a trend is observed south of Brown Street prior to reaching the sentinel wells.
- Further if detection levels in the sentinel wells and wells south of Brown Street are observed, the Town asks that a 2-hour notice of the finding be made to MDE and the Town instead of relying on a Quarterly Report submittal.

Triggering Event Condition #2

- The Town is concerned that #2 relies on just the seven (7) sentinel wells.
- As indicated for Triggering Event #1, the Town believes that aggressive measures need implementation if a trend south of Brown Street is observed prior to reaching the sentinel wells.

Triggering Event Condition #3

- Add that in the event this condition occurs, SRH needs to address all notice requirements to County Health officials and Town residents.
- Add also that SRH will be required to meet County officials, Town officials and residents to discuss the plan of action for providing safe drinking water to the Town.

Triggering Event Condition #4

- ITRC guidelines support the use of silica gel and should not be cited, or an exclusionary statement is needed.
- If LPH recharges on wells south of Brown Street, the reinstatement of P&T is warranted.

Triggering Event Condition #5

- ITRC guidelines support the use of silica gel and should not be cited, or an exclusionary statement is needed.
- If LPH recharges on wells north of Brown Street, the reinstatement of P&T is warranted.

Triggering Event Condition #6

- This Trigger condition is extremely confusing – the early warning system discussed in Trigger Event Condition #6 requires further explanation.
- Why are 6-wells and not all the quarterly wells (cited in Table 1 – 21 wells) included for Triggering Event #6?
- Triggering Event Condition #6 needs further clarification especially since it cites restarting P&T (although the interval for the restart is not entirely clear) and submittal of a Site Investigation Work Plan.

Additional Comments and Concerns:

- If the 1-year (2023) time period is specified because another 1-year plan will be prepared subsequently for 2024, this should be noted to be consistent with the 3-year overall timeframe.
- Further, after reviewing the proposed SAP, the Town now believes that MW 25 should not be removed from the monitoring program due to an assessment of the lot located south of Brown Street.
- The proposed SAP only cites one stakeholder meeting in November 2023. The Town would prefer the option of convening more than the November meeting regardless of whether a trigger event occurs, if the Town believes such a face-to-face meeting is warranted.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Chester River Hospital Center SAP. Please feel free to contact the Town if you have any questions and or concerns.

Sincerely,



David Foster, Mayor

cc: Ken Kozel
Kenneth Gutman
Steve Slatnick
Andrew Miller
Susan Bull
Bill Ingersoll
Bob Sipes
Michael Powell
Bethami Auerbach
Michael Forlini