



Maryland

Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Ben Grumbles, Secretary
Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary

November 8, 2018

Mr. Simon Brown
47 Silopanna Road
Annapolis MD 21403-1117

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for your email to Governor Hogan regarding environmental concerns in your community. As Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment, the Governor asked me to respond.

The Department has been tracking the oil discharge at the Bates Middle School since late April and has met with Anne Arundel Public School personnel and their environmental contractors on several occasions since. On April 28, 2018, the school's environmental contractor began cleanup of the discharged oil using a vacuum truck and sorbent materials under the jurisdiction of the United States Coast Guard. On May 2, 2018, the same contractor flushed the storm sewer system with 2,500 gallons of water and collected the oily material at the point of discharge (outfall). Sorbent booms were left in place at the outfall and have been maintained by the school's contractor at the Department's direction since then. The booms are inspected several times per week and sorbents are used to collect the boomed oily material several times per month. The current direction from the Department to inspect the outfall is twice per week and after rain events. The school has performed two video surveillance investigations of the storm sewer system; both without any conclusive results of where the oily material is entering the system. The drains in the school were sealed off by the school personnel previously, but there is obviously still work to do.

All parties involved want what is best for the Chesapeake Bay and its various feeder systems, including Spa Creek. With that in mind, the Department has requested that the school continue to maintain the containment and cleanup efforts at the outfall and to begin a more earnest investigation of the subsurface and aged infrastructure of the school. The goal will be to determine where the oil could be originating from and ultimately stop it from entering the storm water system in the future.

Thank you again for your email. If I may be of further assistance, please contact me at 410-537-3084, or Ms. Kaley Laleker, Acting Director of Land and Materials Administration at 410-537-3304 or by email at kaley.laleker@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben Grumbles".

Ben Grumbles
Secretary

cc: Kaley Laleker, Acting Director, Land and Materials Administration