



# Maryland

## Department of the Environment

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

Ben Grumbles, Secretary  
Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary

January 27, 2021

Mr. Chandrakant K. Patel (Current Owner/Operator)  
Mr. Pragnesh Patel  
Calvert Country Store  
2815 North East Road  
North East, MD 21901

Mr. Kenneth D. Thomas (Point of Contact)  
Country Stores Inc. (Former Owner/Operator)  
225 City Ave, Suite 105  
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Mr. Chris Haab  
Country Stores - Representing Alger Oil  
225 E City Ave, Suite 105  
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

**RE: SITE STATUS LETTER  
DUAL PHASE EXTRACTION (DPE) SHUT-DOWN AND OFF-SITE IMPACTS  
Case No. 1992-2616-CE  
Notice of Violation NV-2004-038-Addendum  
Calvert Citgo (Former Alger Country Store)  
2815 North East Road, North East  
Cecil County, Maryland  
Facility I.D. No. 5678**

Dear Sirs:

The Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Oil Control Program (OCP) is in receipt of the *Combined Quarterly Remediation and Groundwater Monitoring Reports* for the Second and Third Quarters of 2020, received November 18, 2020. The OCP appreciates receiving the missing quarterly reports and anticipates future reports will be received by the established deadlines. Timely reporting is your responsibility and any future delays may result in enforcement action.

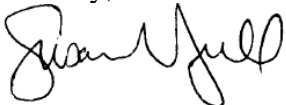
The approved dual-phase extraction (DPE) system initially started on April 24, 2017 with extraction from monitoring well MW-5R. All extracted liquids were stored on site in a Frac tank during the period of system start-up until August 2020. The OCP understands that, as of August 2020, the DPE system extracts from three monitoring wells, MW-1, MW-3R, and MW-5R. All extracted liquids are treated and discharged on site under an approved permit.

The DPE system is in place to remediate site contamination and the protection of human health and the environment. The OCP understands the system is not operating continuously throughout the year and there have been periods of unapproved downtime for winter temperatures and maintenance. Since system start-up, the system has been turned off without OCP approval each year during the general time frame of December through May or June. Extended periods of winter downtime delay site remediation, extend the overall duration of the case, and prolong the risk to human health. Because of the unapproved extended periods of system downtime, it is crucial that OCP receive timely reports to ensure off-site private supply wells are protected. **The remediation system must run continually.** The OCP requires adjustments be made to the system immediately that will allow continuous operation throughout the year, including cold weather periods.

Granular activated carbon (GAC) systems are in place at 2794 and 2802 North East Road. According to *Combined Quarterly Remediation and Groundwater Monitoring Report for Third Quarter 2020*, the carbon in both systems was rotated/replaced on July 31, 2020. The most recent off-site well sampling data received by MDE was for the sampling event conducted on October 30, 2020 in which elevated levels of petroleum constituents continued to be detected. Post-filtration sample trends continue to exhibit elevated levels of tertiary-butyl alcohol (TBA): 4,020 ppb at 2794 North East Road and 711 ppb at 2802 North East Road. These elevated concentrations are not acceptable. Even though there is not an established maximum contaminant level (MCL) for TBA, MDE uses a cumulative view of all data points to evaluate the overall risk of the water to the end consumers. Due to the impacted nature of the private supply wells, including the effluent samples, actions need to be taken to increase effectiveness of the treatment systems. These actions may include but are not limited to more frequent carbon unit change-outs, the installation of additional carbon units, or use of air strippers. **No later than March 31, 2020**, submit a proposal that will increase treatment to the wells located at 2794 and 2802 North East Road. Any previously proposed actions were determined to be ineffective or non-viable options and cannot be submitted with this required proposal.

If you have any questions, please contact the case manager, Ms. Lindley Campbell, at 410-537-3387 ([lindley.campbell1@maryland.gov](mailto:lindley.campbell1@maryland.gov)) or me at 410-537-3499 ([susan.bull@maryland.gov](mailto:susan.bull@maryland.gov)).

Sincerely,



Susan R. Bull, Eastern Region Supervisor  
Remediation Division, Oil Control Program

cc: Mr. John and Mrs. Sharan O'Brien (Property owners, 2794 North East Road)  
Mr. Roudie Harrison (Property owner, 2802 North East Road)  
Mr. Chetan Patel ([chetanpatel02@gmail.com](mailto:chetanpatel02@gmail.com))  
Ms. Suzanne Shourds, Senior Project Manager, React Environmental Professional Services Group  
Thomas V. McCarron, Esquire, Semmes, Bowen & Semmes  
Robert Valliant Jones, Esquire, Law Offices of Robert Valliant Jones  
Mr. Ed Arellano, Acting Director of Environmental Health, Cecil County Health Dept.  
Mr. Andrew B. Miller, Chief, Remediation Division, Oil Control Program  
Mr. Christopher H. Ralston, Program Administrator, Oil Control Program