



Maryland

Department of the Environment

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

Ben Grumbles, Secretary
Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary

November 18, 2020

Mr. Ed Arellano
Environmental Health Director
Cecil County Health Department
401 Bow Street
Elkton, Maryland 21921

**RE: PETROLEUM IMPACT TO MONITORING WELL IN A
HIGH RISK GROUNDWATER USE AREA
Case No. 2021-0202-CE
Sunoco Duns #0651-9128
355 Telegraph Road, Rising Sun
Cecil County, Maryland
Facility I.D. No. 2823**

Dear Mr. Arellano:

This letter is provided in compliance with Section 4-411.2 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland and Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.10.02.03.B.(2)(b), which require notification be provided to “the appropriate local health department of a finding that a groundwater monitoring well sample taken from a high-risk groundwater use area” contains certain levels of petroleum related contaminants. On November 4, 2020, the Maryland Department of the Environment’s (MDE) Oil Control Program (OCP) received a report of a detection of benzene and methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) above the notification limits in groundwater monitoring wells located on the subject property owned and operated by Sunoco, LP/ Evergreen Resource Group (Sunoco).

Benzene was detected at concentrations ranging from 40.6 to 546 parts per billion (ppb) in monitoring wells MW-1 and MW-3, respectively. MTBE was detected in monitoring well MW-3 at a concentration of 28.6 ppb. The samples were collected during a routine annual groundwater sampling event conducted in accordance with COMAR 26.10.02.03-4 for stations operating in designated high-risk groundwater use areas (HRGUAs). The sampling event was conducted August 26, 2020 and the results were provided to MDE in a report dated October 27, 2020. In response to the findings and the delayed reporting by Sunoco, MDE required the collection of confirmation samples from MW-1, MW-2, MW-3, and the on-site drinking water supply well.

The confirmatory samples were collected on November 6, 2020. The analytical results for the confirmatory samples exhibited concentrations of the following petroleum constituents: benzene in MW-1 and MW-3 ranging from 23.9 to 315 ppb, which exceed the 5 ppb standard; and MTBE in MW-3 at 20 ppb, which is equivalent to the 20 ppb standard. The water samples collected from MW-2 were either at or below the notification standards and the on-site drinking water was non-detect for petroleum constituents.

The OCP Compliance Division conducted an initial review of the underground storage tank (UST) systems and did not find evidence of an active or ongoing release from the UST systems. A more thorough inspection of the UST systems will be scheduled, and Sunoco will be required to increase sampling of the monitoring wells from annual to quarterly. At this time, MDE does not anticipate sampling any off-site drinking water supply wells. Please be advised that this notification does not necessarily mean any off-site wells have been impacted by the contamination or will be impacted in the future.

Section 4-411.2 of the Environment Article also requires upon notification of contamination in a designated HRGUA: “the Department shall notify each owner of property within one-half mile of the site from which the sample was taken.” Notification to the property owners must be made by certified mail and provide the property owner with information regarding the amount of contamination at the site. The MDE appreciates the Cecil County Health Department providing addresses and a site map for all property owners within a half-mile radius of the subject property. The MDE is currently preparing the required property owner notification letter, which will be mailed on or before November 18, 2020 to approximately 222 property owners. A copy of the notification letter to the property owners and other related site correspondences will be provided to the Cecil County Health Department.

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

cc: Ms. Amanda Kistler, Sunoco, LP/ Evergreen Resources Group
Mr. Calvin Bonenberger, Town Administrator of Rising Sun
Mr. John Grace, Division Chief, Source Protection and Administration Division
Mr. Andrew B. Miller, Chief, Remediation Division, Oil Control Program
Ms. Kaley Laleker Director, Land and Materials Administration