



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Martin O'Malley
Governor

Shari T. Wilson
Secretary

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Deputy Secretary

March 25, 2010

Dear Resident of Jacksonville:

You may have recently read that the Department of Environment allowed ExxonMobil to discontinue providing bottled water to 126 residents and to end sampling of 130 residential wells. I've enclosed Governor O'Malley's letter to me asking that MDE reconsider its decision, to assure residents that their drinking water is safe. At the request of Governor O'Malley, this decision is under review by the Department.

This reconsideration will take at least 60 days. If you have any information you would like MDE to consider while reviewing this decision, please provide that information by April 29, 2010. The information may be sent to:

Kathryn Bishop
Office of the Secretary
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21230

or by e-mail to: kbishop@mde.state.md.us

In the interim, as you may already know, ExxonMobil will continue to provide delivery of bottled water. The wells approved for no further sampling were on a twice a year sampling schedule and were not scheduled to be sampled again until June. The future of that sampling will depend on the outcome of the review.

When the gasoline release was discovered in February 2006, ExxonMobil began providing bottled water to properties throughout the Jacksonville area as a precautionary measure. The Department supported this voluntary decision which assured safe drinking water for residents as initial emergency recovery and investigation efforts began. Once the bottled water delivery began, however, MDE reserved the right, under our authority to direct cleanup activities, to approve any changes in delivery of bottled water.

As data and information about the extent of contamination improved, in 2006, MDE approved discontinuation of bottled water delivery to approximately 70 homes that were clearly outside of the area impacted by the release. During the last quarter of 2009, ExxonMobil approached MDE



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to discuss further reducing bottled water delivery in 2009. The company formalized its request to reduce bottled water delivery to the remaining 126 residences in a January 15, 2010 letter to MDE.

Based on the data and after analysis and review by technical experts, MDE approved the proposal to discontinue the bottled water delivery based on the sampling results, the decrease in the size of the plume of contamination and the extensive monitoring well network which remains in place.

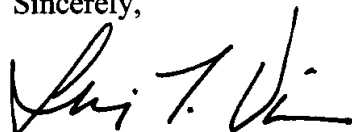
ExxonMobil also recently asked to reduce the sampling of a number of residential wells in the study area. The Department approved one of those requests and denied two others.

The Department approved discontinuation of sampling of 130 residential wells that were currently on a semi-annual sampling schedule on the periphery of the study area. The technical basis for this decision was the sampling history for those wells and the continued regular sampling of the sentinel monitoring well network that would indicate if there is any rise in contaminant levels with the potential to ultimately impact those residential wells.

The Department denied ExxonMobil's request to modify the sampling schedule from monthly to quarterly for 44 private wells because of the proximity of those wells to the zone of contamination. We also denied the request to modify the sampling schedule from quarterly to semi-annually for an additional 74 homes.

If you have any questions about the ExxonMobil remediation, data for your well or any other concerns, please contact me or Horacio Tablada, Director, Land Management Administration, at 410-537-3304 or by e-mail at htablada@mde.state.md.us. For information or updates on the remedial efforts in Jacksonville, you may also visit MDE's website: www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/LandPrograms/Oil_Control/RemediationSites.

Sincerely,



Shari T. Wilson
Secretary

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Martin O'Malley
The Honorable James T. Smith
The Honorable Andrew P. Harris
The Honorable A.Wade Kach
The Honorable J.B. Jennings



STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

March 2, 2010

The Honorable Shari T. Wilson
Secretary
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21230

Dear Secretary Wilson:

I read with great concern about the Maryland Department of the Environment's decision to allow ExxonMobil to discontinue two elements of its remediation efforts in northern Baltimore County to address the gasoline leak that occurred in January 2006 at the Exxon station on Jarrettsville Pike.

It is imperative that public confidence is maintained and that regulatory decisions are effectively communicated and understood. Given the many challenges in monitoring ground water purity over a large area, the uncertainties surrounding the detrimental effects of even minute levels of the carcinogen MTBE and the continued public concern, I urge you to expeditiously and carefully revisit this matter.

It is critically important that we maintain confidence in public health and to do so we must be able to assure residents with complete certainty that their drinking water is safe. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin O'Malley".

Governor