ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1021 North Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276 • (217) 782-2829
James R. Thompson Center, 100 West Randolph, Suite 11-300, Chicago, IL 60601 • (312) 814-6026

PAT QUINN, GOVERNOR DOUGLAS P. SCOTT, DIRECTOR

217/558-8280

December 3, 2009

Mr. Aaron Shepley, Mayor
City Hall
100 W. Woodstock Street
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Dear Mr. Shepley,

This letter is notice to you by the Illinois EPA under Section 25d-3(a) of the Environmental Protection Act [415 ILCS 5/25d-3(a)] that there has been a confirmed detection of groundwater contamination that poses a threat of exposure to the public above the Class I groundwater quality standards. Trichloroethylene (TCE) has been detected, and confirmed, in your raw and finished water, and the TCE exceeds the nondegradation groundwater standard of 2.5 parts per billion (ppb). TCE was detected most recently in finished water from Treatment Application Point 06 at a level of 2.9 ppb.

Section 25d-3(a) of the Environmental Protection Act requires you to provide notification to your customers of this contamination. Within 5 business days of receipt of this notice you must notify all residents and owners of premises connected to your community water system as required in Section 25d-3(a) of the Environmental Protection Act. Within 7 calendar days after you send these notifications, you must provide the Illinois EPA with written proof that you have sent the notifications.

Your notification must contain the information required under Section 25d-3(a) of the Environmental Protection Act. For your convenience, I have enclosed a copy of Section 25d-3(a) of the Environmental Protection Act with this letter. Also, I have summarized these statutory requirements below.

Notification Requirements

Within 5 business days after receiving this notification you must send, to all residents and owners of premises connected to your community water:

1. A copy of this notice by first-class mail or by e-mail; or
2. Notification, in a form approved by the Illinois EPA, via:

- first-class postcard,
- text message, or
- telephone: (except that notices to institutional residents, including, but not limited to, residents of school dormitories, nursing homes, and assisted care facilities, may be made to the owners and operators of those institutions, and the owners or operators of those institutions shall notify their residents in the same manner as prescribed in this subsection for owners and operators of community water systems).

If you choose to notify according to Option No. 2 above, you must contact Dean Studer at the number provided below to discuss the minimum contents for such notification and to obtain approval. If the manner for the notification that you select does not include a written copy of this notice, the owner or operator shall include a written copy of this notice in the next water bill that is sent to the residents and owners of the premises; however, if the water bill is sent on a postcard, no written copy of this notice is required if the postcard includes the following Internet address for the notice posted on the Illinois EPA's website at: http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/drinking-water-watch/pws-well-contamination/index.html.

The front of the envelope or postcard that is sent to residents and owners of premises connected to your community water system shall carry the following text in at least 18 point font: PUBLIC HEALTH NOTICE - READ IMMEDIATELY.

Within 7 days after the owner or operator of the community water system sends the notifications to all residents and owners of premises connected to the affected community water system, the owner or operator shall provide Dean Studer with proof that the notifications have been sent.

Potential Health Effect Information

The possible human health effects associated with TCE are summarized below from the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) drinking water contaminant factsheet for TCE:

> *What are trichloroethylene's health effects?*
> Some people who drink water containing TCE well in excess of the maximum contaminant level (MCL), set at 5 ppb, for many years could experience problems with their liver and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
>
> This health effects language is not intended to catalog all possible health effects for trichloroethylene. Rather, it is intended to inform consumers of some of the possible health effects associated with trichloroethylene in drinking water.
>
> *How is trichloroethylene regulated?*
> In 1974, Congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act. This law requires U.S. EPA to determine safe levels of contaminants in drinking water which do or may cause health problems. These non-enforceable health goals, based solely on possible health risks and

exposure over a lifetime, are called maximum contaminant level goals (MCLG). The MCLG for TCE is zero. U.S. EPA has set this level of protection based on the best available science to prevent potential health problems.

In Illinois, the groundwater quality standard is two-tiered. The non-degradation standard for TCE occurs between the detection level of 0.5 ppb and the numerical standard of 5 ppb. Accordingly, the numerical groundwater standard is 5 ppb.

The complete contaminant factsheet for TCE can be found on U.S. EPA's website at: http://www.epa.gov/safewater/contaminants/basicinformation/trichloroethylene.html

Failure to provide the notification required under Section 25d-3(a) of the Environmental Protection Act to all residents and owners of premises connected to your community water system may result in a civil penalty of up to $5.00 for each premises connected to the community water system for each day of violation. [415 ILCS 5/42(b)(6)]

In addition, any person who knowingly makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement, orally or in writing, to the Illinois EPA commits a Class 4 felony. A second or subsequent offense after conviction is a Class 3 felony. [415 ILCS 5/44(h)]

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Dean Studer, Right-to-Know Coordinator, at 217-558-8280.

Very Truly Yours,

Douglas P. Scott
Director

Attch.

Cc: Eric LeCuyer, Director of Public Works
Dave McMillan
Elgin Regional Office
PWS Main File #2
Dean Studer