ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276 • (217) 782-3397
PAT QUINN, GOVERNOR JOHN J. KIM, INTERIM DIRECTOR

217/558-8280

CERTIFIED MAIL #
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

July 16, 2012

The Honorable Lewis Towers
21801 Torrence Avenue
Sauk Village, IL 60411

Dear Mayor Towers:

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. Vinyl chloride has been detected, and confirmed, in your raw and finished water, and the vinyl chloride exceeds the maximum contaminant level (MCL) prevention standard of 1.0 parts per billion (ppb). Vinyl chloride was detected and confirmed most recently in finished water from Treatment Application Point 01 at a level of 1.68 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 vinyl chloride are summarized below from the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) drinking water contaminant factsheet for vinyl chloride:

> *What are vinyl chloride's health effects?*
> Some people who drink water containing vinyl chloride well in excess of the maximum contaminant level (MCL), set at 2 ppb, for many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
>
> This health effects language is not intended to catalog all possible health effects for vinyl chloride. Rather, it is intended to inform consumers of some of the possible health effects associated with vinyl chloride in drinking water when the rule was finalized.
>
> *How is vinyl chloride 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 vinyl chloride 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 drinking water standard is two-tiered. The MCL prevention standard is 1 ppb. Accordingly, the groundwater standard is 2 ppb.

The complete contaminant factsheet for vinyl chloride can be found on U.S. EPA's Website at: http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/basicinformation/vinyl-chloride.cfm

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.

Sincerely,

John J. Kim
Interim Director

Attachment

cc: Henrietta Turner
Kevin Weller
Eric Cook

(415 ILCS 5/25d-3)

Sec. 25d-3. Notices.

(a) Beginning January 1, 2006, if the Agency determines that:

(1) Soil contamination beyond the boundary of the site where the release occurred, soil gas contamination beyond the boundary of the site where the release occurred, or both pose ~~poses~~ a threat of exposure to the public above the appropriate Tier 1 remediation objectives, based on the current use of the off-site property, adopted by the Board under Title XVII of this Act, the Agency shall give notice of the threat to the owner of the contaminated property; or

(2) Groundwater contamination poses a threat of exposure to the public above the Class I groundwater quality standards adopted by the Board under this Act and the Groundwater Protection Act, the Agency shall give notice of the threat to the following:

(A) for any private, semi-private, or non-community water system, the owners of the properties served by the system; and

(B) for any community water system,

(i) the owners and operators of the system; and

(ii) the residents and owners of premises

connected to the affected community water system; and

(iii) the residents and owners of premises connected to water systems receiving water from the affected community water system.

The Agency's determination must be based on the credible, scientific information available to it, and the Agency is not required to perform additional investigations or studies beyond those required by applicable federal or State laws.

For notices required under subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) of subsection (a), the Agency shall (i) within 2 days after determining that groundwater contamination poses a threat of exposure to the public above the Class I groundwater quality standards, provide notice of the determination by issuing a press release and posting the press release on the Agency's website and (ii) within 5 days after the determination, provide the owner and operator of the community water system and the owners and operators of all connected community water systems with a notice printed on Agency letterhead that identifies the contaminant posing the threat, the level of contamination found, and possible human health effects associated with exposure to the contaminant. Within 5 business days after receiving a notice from the Agency under this paragraph, the owner or operator of the community water system must send, to all residents and owners of premises connected to the affected community water system: (i) a copy of the notice by first-class

mail or by e-mail; or (ii) notification, in a form approved by the Agency, 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 owner or operator 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 the manner for notice selected by the owner or operator of the community water system does not include a written copy of the notice provided by the Agency, the owner or operator shall include a written copy of the notice provided by the Agency in the next water bill sent to the residents and owners of the premises; provided, however, if the water bill is sent on a postcard, no written copy of the notice provided by the Agency is required if the postcard includes the Internet address for the notice posted on the Agency's website. The front of the envelope or postcard in which any such notice is sent to residents and owners of premises connected to the affected community water system shall carry the following text in at least 18 point font: PUBLIC HEALTH NOTICE - READ IMMEDIATELY. For a postcard, text message, or telephonic communication, the Agency shall specify the minimum information that the owner or operator must include in such methods of notice. Within 7 days after the owner or operator of the community water system sends the notices to

residents and owners of premises connected to the community water system, the owner or operator shall provide the Agency with proof that the notices have been sent. The notices required under subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) of subsection (a) shall be provided whether or not the threat of exposure has been eliminated.