

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Martin O'Malley Governor Robert M. Summers, Ph.D. Secretary

Anthony G. Brown Lieutenant Governor

January 31, 2013

RE: COMMUNITY UPDATE
Case No. 2006-0303-BA
Former Exxon R/S No. 2-8077
14258 Jarrettsville Pike, Phoenix
Baltimore County, Maryland

Dear Resident or Property Owner:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is sending this letter to provide you with an update on the groundwater cleanup efforts for the January 2006 ExxonMobil release and to inform you of additional work that ExxonMobil has proposed. This additional work includes the installation and deepening of several wells throughout the study area, which is meant to confirm the site assessment work to date and to supplement the existing monitoring well network. MDE has reviewed the proposal and is prepared to approve the additional work. The Department is providing notice to the community because of the scope and timeframe of the proposed activities. The following provides additional details about these activities and the current cleanup status.

Additional Site Assessment

In June 2012, ExxonMobil proposed additional site assessment plans in a report titled *Additional Site Characterization Work Plan - June 21, 2012*. The proposal was for the installation of up to 12 new wells and the deepening of 6 existing wells to greater than 300 feet deep. The drilling will take roughly two to five days per location, followed by several in-well tests at each location that are expected to take one day each, sequenced over a one month period. Altogether, the proposed activities will take several months to complete as ExxonMobil will begin at each location as property access is granted. It is anticipated that drilling is likely to begin in the second quarter of 2013.

A map from the report is enclosed and the full report is available on the MDE website for review (the link is provided below). The proposed work areas are: in the vicinity of the Jarrettsville Pike/Paper Mill Road intersection; on the former station property; on commercial properties; and locations within the residential areas northeast of the intersection. The State Highway Administration (SHA), the MDE, and ExxonMobil are also coordinating efforts to install wells within the intersection during SHA's proposed construction activities.

The work was proposed by ExxonMobil to further characterize the dissolved petroleum contamination detected in the northeast area (east of Jarrettsville Pike), to fill data gaps in close proximity to where the original release occurred, and to establish additional deep monitoring locations throughout the study area.

Meeting these objectives will continue to ensure that measures taken to date have been effective and will help to guide future activities for the cleanup.

The Department has reviewed the proposal and met with ExxonMobil to discuss details of the plan to better ensure that it would be carried out in a safe manner. The Department is satisfied that this can be done and will be sending approval to ExxonMobil to execute the plan. A week or so prior to beginning work at each location, ExxonMobil will be sending a communication letter to the property owner where the actual work will be occurring and the immediately adjacent property owners.

Groundwater Cleanup Update

Currently, there are 290 wells that were installed at various depths for the purposes of recovery and/or monitoring of groundwater conditions within the study area. Recovery of contaminated groundwater is being performed from up to 85 of those wells. The groundwater treatment systems are located on two properties: the former Exxon station and the 3418 Sweet Air Road property. To date, over 95 million gallons of groundwater have been treated through these systems and discharged back into the environment to the Green Branch and Sawmill Branch, located southwest and northeast of the site. All groundwater withdrawals and discharge of treated groundwater are conducted under the provisions of a MDE Water Appropriations Permit and a State and Federal discharge permit. The quality of discharged groundwater is monitored and is in compliance with the discharge permit.

Since the Department's directives in December 2006, ExxonMobil has been sampling over 250 drinking water supply wells within the established study area. Since monitoring began in 2006, thirteen supply wells have been placed on individual carbon filtration units as a result of documented well impact or as a precautionary measure. Since December 2011, all monitored drinking water supply wells have been below action levels for gasoline constituents.

The groundwater recovered from the treatment zones to the southwest of the station has been below action levels for over three years. The treatment systems also continue to pump contaminated water from the former station property and the treatment zones to the northeast of the station. In addition to groundwater pumping, extraction of soil vapor continues at the former station property and the 14301 Jarrettsville Pike, 14307 Jarrettsville Pike, 3501 Hampshire Glen Court, and 3503 Hampshire Glen Court properties.

The Department continues its commitment in overseeing cleanup activities and will require the necessary actions to ensure the continued protection of the drinking water resources of this community. To obtain more detail on the work plan discussed above or to view updates and maps of the area that show sampling frequency, monitoring well locations, and other site data, please view the available reports on our website at:

http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Land/OilControl/RemediationSites/Pages/Programs/LandPrograms/Oil Control/RemediationSites/index.aspx.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 410-537-3443 (email: cralston@mde.state.md.us) or the case manager, Ms. Ellen Jackson, at 410-537-3482 (email: ejackson@mde.state.md.us).

Sincerely,

Christopher H. Ralston, Administrator Oil Control Program

CHR/nln

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Glen Thomas (Greater Jacksonville Community Association)

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