



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

Roy L. Mason, Esq.
Mason & Cawood
69 Franklin Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

MAY 24 2011

Dear Mr. Mason:

Thank you for your letters of December 14, 2010, and March 4, 2011, on behalf of the residents of the Raspberry Falls subdivision in Leesburg, Virginia. We understand that the residents are concerned about the quality of their drinking water, which is a groundwater-based system operated by Loudoun Water.

Federal regulations and those of the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) specify testing and treatment techniques water systems must use when water sources may contain pathogens and/or other harmful chemicals. A review of regulatory monitoring data from the Raspberry Falls community water system shows that the system's treated drinking water meets all applicable Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) standards. However, as a commendable precaution, the VDH has required Loudoun Water to conduct monitoring beyond that which is typically required for a ground water system, owing to the potential vulnerability of the system's water sources. The monitoring results have caused the VDH to determine that one of the water system's sources is ground water under the direct influence of surface water (GUDI). (I should note that, while a GUDI determination triggers the need for a system to take certain actions, it is not a finding that the system is in violation of Safe Drinking Water Act requirements.) We understand that, because of VDH's GUDI determination, Loudoun Water is evaluating options to provide alternative treatments that would be required for a water system with a GUDI supply source of water. We will continue to monitor the progress of the treatment options being developed by Loudoun Water.

We realize the Raspberry Falls residents are concerned that the limestone karst geology which underlies the community may cause their drinking water to be subject to pollutants from various sources. In order to provide additional information as to whether the community's drinking water system is influenced by other sources, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors requested the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to perform a dye tracing study to specifically address the community's drinking water concerns. Dr. Malcolm Field, an EPA Senior Research Hydrogeologist who is an expert in the field of karst hydrogeology, was to conduct the field study in April 2010 and later provide a report to the Loudoun County Supervisors. The VDH, as the Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) Program's primacy agency, was to assess the data from the report to further evaluate the influence of surface water to this water system and recommend different treatment if appropriate. However, given that VDH has identified Well #1 as GUDI, Well #1 is now out of service. As a result, Loudoun Water is now pursuing options of treatment for the ground water source or connections from

other water systems to the Raspberry Falls subdivision. Because the proposed dye tracing study would not trigger any additional requirements for the Raspberry Falls system that Loudoun Water is not already considering, we have determined, in consultation with our Office of Research and Development, not to proceed with the dye tracing study.

I want to assure you that the EPA is very concerned about the issues raised by the residents. We believe that the actions taken by the VDH have been protective of public health and have met SDWA requirements. We will continue working with the VDH and will continue monitoring the concerns raised by your letter.

If there are additional water quality concerns beyond the SDWA issues raised by the community, please forward these concerns to our Regional office and the appropriate State Agency. Please feel free to contact me or William Arguto, our Drinking Water Branch Chief, at 215- 814-3367.

Sincerely,



Victoria Binetti, Associate Director
Water Protection Division

cc: Dr. Malcolm Field
Philip Yeany
William Arguto
Dr. Paul White
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