

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WV TAP

WEST VIRGINIA TESTING ASSESSMENT PROJECT



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DATE: Tuesday March 25, 2014

SUBJECT: WV TAP Testing Finds 4-MCHM Exiting West Virginia American Water Treatment Facility at Less than 1 ppb Concentration, Recommended WVAM Identify the Source

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On March 18, 2014, at the request of the WV TAP team and authorization by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, the West Virginia National Guard collected a limited number of water samples in the Elk River downstream of the Freedom industries spill site, at the intake structure for West Virginia American Water treatment facility, and tap water from a home located near where treated water leaves the plant and enters the water distribution system.

Water testing results received by WV TAP on March 21, 2014 showed 4-MCHM was not present in either the river or entering the water treatment plant at a level of 0.5 ppb or greater.

Test results did reveal that 4-MCHM was present in one of the homes of the first customers at a level less than 1.0 ppb, but greater than 0.5 ppb. This finding implied that there could be a source of 4-MCHM in the water treatment facility.

The levels found were less than both the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) 10 ppb screening level and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 1,000 ppb screening level for 4-MCHM. Based on this single sample the WV Tap team felt that additional sampling would help in understanding the source, levels and extent of the 4-MCHM occurrence.

On March 21, 2014 the WV TAP team contacted West Virginian American Water (WVAW) and recommended that WVAW conduct sampling before, within, and following their water treatment plant. WVAW responded immediately instituting an sampling program and delivered the samples on Saturday March 22nd to the Eurofins Lancaster Laboratory Environmental (ELLE) in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. ELLE is one of the two laboratories that participated in the WV TAP project. ELLE's minimum detection limit for 4-MCHM was 0.5 ppb.

WVAW intends to release the results of that sampling Tuesday March 25th, 2014.

Questions about the WVAM water sampling results should be directed to WVAM.