TOWN OF JACKSON GASOLINE PIPELINE SPILL UPDATE

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CONTACT: Eric Nitschke, southeast regional director, 414-263-8570

As efforts move closer to determining a long-term water supply solution, the Department of Natural Resources remains committed to providing you with up-to-date information about what is happening regarding the Town of Jackson fuel spill. A public informational meeting was held February 18 during which DNR, Stantec, Arcadis, and West Shore staff provided updates and answered questions from residents in the Town of Jackson area. The following information summarizes recent developments in the cleanup and long-term water supply efforts.

As of this week, two additional wells have tested for benzene above the state health standard. Both wells tested positive for benzene in earlier tests but the tests were below the state standard for benzene in those previous samples. The two wells are adjacent to wells that have tested above the state standard. DNR has issued advisory letters to the affected property owners. There are now 28 wells that have had benzene detected above health advisory levels on 26 different properties, and a total of 31 wells on 29 properties have detected benzene.

The Jackson town board and its consultant, Stantec Engineering, have reviewed the Arcadis report, provided comments and received public feedback at board meetings. Approximately 80 residents attended a formal town board meeting on March 14 during which there were questions from residents regarding the alternative for a long-term water supply solution. The questions included, but were not limited to, potential sizing of a municipal water main, hydrant locations, whether to approve a system that would be designed to meet fire safety standards, and questions regarding impacts of a municipal water supply system on the Village and Town of Jackson’s border agreement.

Town officials were asked if they had approached the Village of Jackson regarding obtaining municipal water from the village. Town Board Chairman Ray Heidtke stated that he approached the village in mid-February following DNR’s public informational meeting. There were also questions and concerns about a public water supply system and the ability to modify the public water supply system if the plume of contamination were to move in the future. DNR staff confirmed the system would be required to adjust to any change in location of the plume of contamination. Town of Jackson officials requested they be given more time to make a formal recommendation regarding the long-term water supply solution. DNR staff granted the request to extend the deadline, and the board set a public meeting for Thursday, April 4, 2013, to further discuss and vote on a long-term water supply solution.
The cleanup process also continues at the site. The groundwater remediation and the vapor extraction catalytic oxidizer systems continue to operate and be maintained by West Shore and its consultants. Construction of a groundwater remediation system building to house equipment and burial of the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) discharge line to Mill Rd is also ongoing.

- Total water treated/discharged through system as of February 28, 2013: 1,453,503 gallons.
- Product recovered by remediation system as of February 28, 2013: 1,030 gallons.
- Product recovered by site operations (pump/treat system and vacuum truck operations) as of February 28, 2013: 2,692 gallons.

Finally, in the process of maintaining and inspecting the pipeline, West Shore has determined that there are some sections of pipe in the Jackson Marsh it would like to reinforce. There have been no reported discharges from the pipe within the marsh. West Shore has applied for permits from DNR to complete work on reinforcing sections of the pipeline within the Jackson Marsh.

Please look for further updates later during the week of March 25.