

Statement from West Virginia American Water President Jeff McIntyre (8 p.m.)

"West Virginia American Water along with outside experts and the Army Corps of Engineers have established methodology for measuring the level of contamination (4-Methylcyclohexane Methanol). This methodology will enable West Virginia American Water to determine what levels of the contaminant exist in the drinking water leaving the treatment plant.

West Virginia American Water's water quality and water treatment teams will continue to work with the Office of Emergency Management, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau of Public Health and the National Guard to closely monitor the event. We remain in direct contact with all appropriate state and federal officials. Water quality specialists also continue to monitor both raw and finished water and crews will conduct flushing throughout the distribution system.

The company also is working with the state to provide both bulk and bottled water to impacted residents.

We remind customers that due to the nature of the contamination, water should not be used for any purpose other than toilet flushing or firefighting. Alternative sources of water should be used for all other purposes. Bottled water or water from another, safe source should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, bathing, food and baby formula preparation and all other purposes until further notice.

The chemical spill that occurred along the Elk River caused contamination of the source water used for our Kanawha Valley water system. Upon learning of this event, West Virginia American Water took immediate action to identify how the spill might impact its drinking water supplies. After consulting with the state officials and other experts, it was determined that a "Do Not Use" order should be issued.

West Virginia American Water will inform customers when it is determined that the water is once again acceptable to use."

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