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September 11, 2020

Christopher Ralston
Program Manager of Oil Control Program
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd.
Baltimore MD 21230

Re: Chestertown

Dear Christopher Ralston:

We received a copy of the Mayor's letter to you dated September 10, 2020 concerning the silica gel testing method. We will, of course, continue to provide results using the silica gel and the older 8015C testing methodology so that you will have complete data. However, given the wide distribution of the Mayor's letter we are concerned that the recipients of the letter may come away with the mistaken conclusion that EPA has not approved the use of the silica gel method.

In fact, the EPA letter attached to Mayor Cerino's letter specifically approves the use of both methods if it would be useful in meeting project needs. A quote from that letter demonstrates this:

"This is consistent with EPA's view that it is acceptable to pair a variety of cleanup methods with Method 8015C, such as Method 3630C (Silica Gel Cleanup) depending on the project needs. We do not agree that just because Method 3630C (or other cleanup method appropriate to the objectives of the analysis) is not specifically mentioned in the description of Method 8015 in [guidance document] SW-846, that one need conclude that this cleanup method is not allowed to be used with Method 8015.

To summarize, Method 8015C [the older methodology] may be used in conjunction with Method 3630C [silica gel] depending upon project goals, as described above." (Emphasis added)

If we can provide any additional information in this regard, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Powell

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MCP

cc: Mayor Chris Cerino
Councilman David Foster
Councilman Thomas A. Herz, Jr.
Councilman Rev. Ellsworth Tolliver
Councilwoman Meghan Efland
Town Manager William S. Ingersoll
Kenneth Kozel, President and CEO, U of M Shore Regional Health
John Beskid, Director, Environmental Health Program, Kent County
Health Department
Julie Kuspa, Esq/ Office of the Attorney General
John Grace, Source Protection and Appropriation Div. Water Supply
Program
Saeid Kasraei, Program Manager, Water Supply Program, MDE
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Tyler Abbot, Director, Legislative and Intergovernmental Relations,
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