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Canada

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To: Algoma Public Health

From: Transport Canada – Ontario Region

Date: February 6, 2017

Re: Benzene and PFAS Domestic Water Sampling Program, Point Des Chenes Area,
Sault Ste. Marie

Please find attached a memo from BluMetric Environmental Inc. providing a summary of the results of the domestic water sampling program conducted in the Pointe Des Chenes area of Sault Ste. Marie in November 2016.

Media inquiries regarding the attached should be directed to Transport Canada's Media Relations at (613) 993-0055 or media@tc.gc.ca.

General public inquiries should be directed to our regional Transport Canada Issues Manager at (416) 952-0788 or EnviroOnt@tc.gc.ca.

February 3, 2017

Public Works & Government Services Canada – Ontario Region
Transport Canada – Ontario Region
4900 Yonge Street Toronto, ON M2N 6A6

Re: Private Residential Well Sampling Program - Benzene and Perfluoroalkylated Substances

Pointe Des Chenes Area, Sault Ste. Marie

A sampling program of private residential wells was conducted in the Pointe Des Chenes Area in November 2016. The program was conducted as a follow up to a similar benzene sampling program conducted by Algoma Public Health (APH) at selected locations in 2008. BluMetric Environmental Inc. (BluMetric), under contract from Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC), on behalf of Transport Canada (TC), collected water samples from private residential wells in the area to be analysed for benzene and multiple perfluoroalkylated substances (PFAS).

Results from the private residential well sampling indicate that the water sampled meets the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards for benzene, and Health Canada's Drinking Water Screening Values for PFAS in drinking water. Details pertaining to the November 2016 residential well sampling program are provided below.

Background

In 2008 levels of benzene exceeding the Ontario Drinking Water Standard were detected in the water supply well at the Pointe Des Chenes Campground. In response, APH initiated the 2008 benzene sampling program at select private residential wells in the Pointe Des Chenes Area. No benzene was detected in the water samples collected from the private residential wells sampled in 2008. It should be noted that PFAS was not sampled for in 2008.

As part of TC's ongoing environmental investigations and monitoring in relation to the Former Fire-Fighting Training Area (FFTA) at the Sault Ste. Marie Airport, a private residential well sampling program was completed in November 2016. While recent consultant assessments undertaken on behalf of TC have indicated that it is unlikely that residential wells in the Pointe Des Chenes Area have been impacted by contaminants from the FFTA, the 2016 private residential well sampling was completed as a precautionary measure.

Scope of Work

The private residential well sampling program completed in November 2016 focused on the same residences which had been previously sampled by APH in 2008. Samples of raw, untreated (where possible) water were collected by BluMetric personnel between November 14 and 16 2016. Collected water samples were sent to Maxxam Analytics of Mississauga, Ontario for analysis.

Results

Analytical results from all private residential wells included in the program indicated that untreated water meets the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards for benzene, and Health Canada's Drinking Water Screening Values for PFAS in drinking water.

No additional sampling of private residential wells is scheduled under this contract.

Sincerely,

BluMetric Environmental Inc.