



KANKAKEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2390 West Station Street
Kankakee, Illinois 60901
phone 815-937-3560
tty 815-937-8520
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August 6, 2003
For Immediate Release

Contact: John Bevis
Kankakee County Health
Environmental Health
(815) 937-7860

*3 weeks
Aug 6-03*

Momence Water

In accordance with the requirements of the Groundwater Protection Act, notification is hereby provided to the owners of private, semi-private, and non-community water systems in or near Momence of the discovery of the volatile organic compound benzene in excess of the maximum contaminant level and low levels of 1,1-dichloroethane, 1,1-dichloroethylene, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, and perchloroethylene (PCE) and of the need to test their systems for potential contamination. According to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the area potentially affected by contamination is located within the Momence city limits North of the Kankakee River, extending a half mile South of the river, extending a half mile East and West of the city limits North of the river and extending 1 mile West of the city limits South of the river. For a listing of laboratories certified to analyze drinking water for volatile organic compounds, interpretation of any test results, contaminant health effects information and recommendations for individuals who regularly consume water from private wells, semi private wells or non-community can contact John Bevis at the Kankakee County Health Department at (815) 937-7860. Individuals served by a community water system from the city of Momence can contact Momence City Hall, located at 123 W. River Street, Momence, IL, (815) 472-2001.

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ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH, GOVERNOR • ERIC E. WHITAKER, M.D., M.P.H., DIRECTOR
525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001 • www.idph.state.il.us

July 11, 2003

Bonnie Schaafsma
Public Health Administrator
Kankakee County Health Department
2390 West Station
Kankakee, IL 60901

*123 W. River
472-2001*

Dear Ms Schaafsma:

The Illinois Groundwater Protection Act requires the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to notify the Illinois Department of Public Health of the discovery of a volatile organic compound in excess of the maximum contaminant level. Within 60 days of receipt of this notice, the Department, in coordination with the local health department, shall notify the owners of any private, semi-private, or non-community public water system within a potentially affected area of concern of the need to test their water systems for possible contamination. Such notice shall be provided by means of local media and shall be published for three consecutive weeks.

On June 6, 2003, the Department was informed by IEPA (copy attached) of the discovery in or near Momence of the volatile organic compound, benzene, exceeding the maximum contaminant level and low levels of 1,1-dichloroethane, 1,1-dichloroethylene, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, and perchloroethylene (PCE). The area potentially affected by contamination is located within the Momence city limits North of the Kankakee River, extending a half mile South of the river, extending a half mile East and West of the city limits North of the river and extending 1 mile West of the city limits South of the river.

Based upon the above legal requirements and information provided by IEPA, the Department requests that you inform any potentially affected well owners that you are aware of. We also want to know if you wish to place the notice required in the local newspaper for three consecutive weeks, or if you wish us to do so. Please respond by July 25, 2003 to this office. A suggested notice is enclosed. Finally, the notice must contain a name and phone number for the public to contact. Please advise if you prefer that contact to be your Department or our regional office.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 217-782-5830.

Sincerely,

Janice 20

C. Michael Moomey
Acting Division Chief
Division of Environmental Health

attachments

cc: Renee Cipriano, Director, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Regional Engineer, Illinois Department of Public Health



2390 West Station Street
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August 12, 2003

Bill Byrnes
Daily Journal
8 Dearborn Square
Kankakee, IL 60901

Dear Mr. Byrnes:

RE: Contamination of Groundwater in Momence, Kankakee County

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide information regarding a groundwater contamination previously detected in Momence community water supply wells and the possibility that nearby private drinking water system wells in Momence were affected also.

The contamination was found in the Momence Community Water Supply (CWS) starting in 1985. The Illinois EPA, as part of a statewide Groundwater Monitoring Network (Network), sampled Momence CWS Wells #3 and #4 (Illinois EPA #22089 and #22090) for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in 1985. Momence Well #3 showed low levels of 1,1-dichloroethane and 1,1-dichloroethylene. In 1987, the Groundwater Section sampled Momence Wells #1, 2, 4, and 5 (Illinois EPA #22087, 22088, 22090, and 00116) as part of the Network. Sample results showed that Momence Well #2 contained high levels of benzene and low levels of perchloroethylene (PCE), 1,1,1-trichloroethane, 1,1-dichloroethane, and 1,1-dichloroethylene. The concentration of benzene was confirmed to exceed the groundwater standard of 5 parts per billion (ppb). Moreover, Momence Well #1 showed detections of 1,1,1-trichloroethane and 1,1-dichloroethane, and Well #4 contained low levels 1,1,1-trichloroethane. No VOCs were detected in Momence Well #5.

In addition, the following activities have occurred in Momence:

- In 1987, Momence Wells #1, 2 and 3 were taken out of routine service;
- A Preliminary Site Assessment was initiated by Illinois EPA Bureau of Land (BOL) in 1987 to determine the probable sources of contamination;
- In 1988, a Well Site Survey was conducted by Illinois EPA Groundwater Section;
- Momence Well #6 (Illinois EPA #00211) put into service in 1988;
- In 1989, Illinois EPA published the Momence Well Site Survey Report and provided a copy to the Kankakee County Board;
- The Momence wells were placed on quarterly sampling in 1989;

Bill Byrnes
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- Momence Well #3 was properly abandoned in 1990;
- In 1991, a Site Assessment was completed by Illinois EPA BOL; no potentially responsible party was identified;
- In 1996 Momence Wells #1 and #2 were properly abandoned; and
- As of 2000, Momence drinking water samples collected in the distribution system, continue to show very low levels of 1,1,1-trichloroethane and 1,1-dichloroethane (less than 1 ppb)

The Environmental Protection Agency's Bureau of Land has identified five (5) reported releases from underground storage tanks in the area. The EPA has or is working on those releases to facilitate correction of the matter.

If you have any further questions, please call me at (815) 937-7860.

Sincerely,



John J. Bevis, M.P.H.
Director of Environmental Health

JJB:scv

Momence well tests urged

Because of nature of aquifer, subject to contain.
5 underground chemical spills since '85 cause for concern

By Bill Byrns, Journal writer

MOMENCE — Residents of the Momence area are being warned that benzene and several other volatile chemicals have been found in some areas where groundwater tests have been conducted by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

"It is a precautionary notice," says John Bevis, director of environmental health for Kankakee County.

"The EPA's Bureau of Land has identified five reported releases (of chemicals) from underground storage tanks in the area," Bevis said. Some of the releases date back to 1985.

The warning is aimed at residents using private, semi-private or non-community wells on either side of the Kankakee River and includes an area up to a mile outside the city limits.

The health department is providing a list of testing laboratories to all residents who would like to have their water tested. The

agency will also offer recommendations for those who are not on public water service.

Tests of the Momence city water supply in 1985 found low levels of dichloroethane and dichloroethylene, both components of gasoline, in Momence Well #3.

Further testing in 1987 found high levels of benzene and low levels of perchloroethylene (PCE), trichloroethane (TCE), dichloroethane and dichloroethylene in Well #2. The concentration of benzene exceeded allowable limits of 5 parts per billion. Tests also showed some of the same chemicals in Well #1 and #4.

Benzene and dichloroethane, both components of gasoline, and PCE, a chemical used in dry cleaning, are suspected carcinogens according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Dichloroethylene can cause liver problems and TCE can cause liver, nervous system or circulatory problems.

Bevis said that Momence city wells 1, 2 and 3 were taken out of service in 1987. Well #3

was abandoned by the city in 1990 and Wells 2 and 3 were abandoned in 1996.

An assessment by the Bureau of Land in 1991 failed to identify a potentially responsible party.

However EPA records show five reported leaks from underground tanks in the Momence area since 1985.

Spills were reported from J & B Oil, 3210 Dixie Highway in 1987; from the Momence School District and Baron Huot Oil, 807 N. Dixie Highway, in 1993; from G & J Service Station, 2557 S. 13000 East Road in 1999; and from Elwood Line Grain Co., 503 E. Ohio, in 2000.

As of 2000, Bevis said, samples of Momence city water continue to show very low levels of less than 1 part per billion of trichloroethane and dichloroethane.

Individuals using private wells can contact Bevis at 937-7860. City water users can contact City Hall at 472-2001 for more information.

8-14-2003

Legals

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MOMENCE WATER

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