

Update # 8–

The TCEQ will maintain situational awareness and continue to respond as necessary to complaints through the holidays. The TCEQ collected a total of 27 samples on December 21, 2016. The samples were all delivered to the Houston EPA laboratory.

Update # 7–

The TCEQ continued sampling on December 20, 2016 (27 total samples) and December 21, 2016 (26 samples). The TCEQ also responded to two complaints with symptoms possibly related to using the water since the last update. The samples will be or were delivered to the Houston EPA laboratory.

Update #6 –

The TCEQ continued sampling on December 19, 2016 (30 total samples) and December 20, 2016 (26 samples). The TCEQ also responded to five complaints with symptoms possibly related to using the water since the last update. The samples were delivered to the Houston EPA laboratory.

Update #5 –

The EPA and TCEQ participated in a conference call and meeting on Monday, December 19, 2016 with elected officials and local media.

The TCEQ continued sampling on December 18, 2016 (24 samples) and December 19, 2016 (26 samples). The TCEQ also responded to three complaints with symptoms possibly related to using the water. The samples were delivered to the Houston EPA laboratory.

Update #4 –

The City of Corpus Christi held a press conference on Sunday, December 18, 2016 at 10:15 a.m. to inform citizens that the water restrictions have been lifted for the entire city. Citizens were reminded to limit usage so that supplies are not diminished creating additional concerns. In addition, citizens were encouraged to flush their private water lines and contact the city if odors/discoloration were observed.

None of the 28 drinking water samples collected on Thursday, December 15, 2016 and Friday, December 16, 2016 from across the City of Corpus Christi water supply system tested positive for the presence of Indulin AA-86 in drinking water at method detection levels of 0.05 mg/l for LCMS and 0.25 mg/l for GCMS. The EPA and TCEQ toxicologists established a health-based action level of 2.6 mg/l for Indulin AA-86 in drinking water.

TCEQ collected samples on December 15th (10 samples), December 16th (18 Samples), December 17th (24 samples), and December 18th (7 samples).

The TCEQ Corpus Christi Region Office in partnership with the City of Corpus Christi collected samples in Zone 2 and Zone 3 on Saturday, December 17-Sunday, 18, 2016. The TCEQ also responded to seven complaints with possibly related symptoms from using the water. The samples were delivered to the Houston EPA laboratory.

The City of Corpus Christi continues to flush in Zone 3. The TCEQ observed a portion of the flushing activities.

The TCEQ observed the certification of the backflow prevention assembly installed at the facility where the reported backflow occurred. The backflow prevention assembly was certified to be operating within specifications.

Update #3 –

The TCEQ was notified of this incident on December 14, 2016 at approximately 1500 hours.

Update #2 –

Based on information provided by the City of their public drinking water system, the City has been divided into three water use zones. In Zone 1, the “Do Not Use the Water” advisory was rescinded which includes the airport, Calallen area, Flour Bluff area and the island. In Zone 2, which includes the south side of the City, limited use of water may resume for activities including bathing, showering, flushing toilets, and washing clothes. However, due to the potential for contaminated water, infants and young children should not bathe using water since they may swallow some of it and additional water testing is needed. Immunocompromised individuals (e.g., those individuals undergoing chemotherapy, those with HIV/AIDS) should likewise avoid consuming the water. Only bottled water should be used for drinking or cooking/food preparation. In Zone 3, the “Do Not Use the Water” remains in full effect and includes downtown and the North Beach area. Maps of the zones are available on the City’s website.

The TCEQ Corpus Christi Region Office in partnership with the City of Corpus Christi collected samples in Zone 2 and Zone 3 on Friday, December 16, 2016. The samples are in transit to the Houston EPA laboratory.

A backflow prevention device was installed at the facility where the reported backflow occurred. The backflow prevention device was certified to be operating within specifications; however, water has not been restored to the facility.

Update #1 -

Based on the report of a possible backflow incident affecting the City’s public water supply, a “Do Not Use the Water” advisory was issued to the City of Corpus Christi’s customers on December 14, 2016 at 10:30 pm. The City has shut-off water service to the facility where the reported backflow occurred. The suspect contaminant is an emulsifier (mixture of Indulin® AA-86, hydrochloric acid, and water).

The TCEQ Corpus Christi Region Office in partnership with the City of Corpus Christi has collected a sample of the additive (Indulin® AA-86). In addition, samples were collected in the City’s drinking water distribution system. EPA is partnering with the TCEQ to analyze all samples and determine the potential impact. EPA and TCEQ are also reviewing engineering data/models of the drinking water system provided by the City to determine affected areas.

The TCEQ is currently investigating the reported backflow incident.

TCEQ Notification Type: Water Sector Impact

Notification Status: Initial

General Incident Information:

Type of Incident: Backflow

Date: December 7, 2016
Time (am/pm) Incident Started: unknown
Time (am/pm) TCEQ Notified: December 14, 2016, approximately 15:00
TCEQ Region: Region 14 Corpus Christi

Responsible Party (RP)/Regulated Entity Information/Incident Location

RP/Regulated Entity Name: City of Corpus Christi
RN Number (if available): RN101385151
Street Address: 6746 Up River Rd.
City: Corpus Christi
County: Nueces
RP Contact Name and Information: Gabriel Ramirez, 361-816-5208

Specific Incident Information

Description of Event/Cause: backflow incident from a chemical tank impacting the public water system
Material Released: Indoline/Hydrochloric Acid
Amount Released (estimated): unknown
Affected Media: Drinking water (distribution system)
Injuries or Fatalities: None noted
Other Risks: NA

Current Response

TCEQ Response: TCEQ mobilized at approximately 15:20
TCEQ Responder Name: Blas Rizzo
Incident Commander Name and Contact Information: NA
Emergency Response Contractor Information: NA
Other Federal, State, or Local Authorities on Site: City of Corpus Christi

Other Pertinent Information, If Available

Weather: NA
Wind Direction: NA
Potentially Impacted Receptors: drinking water distribution system and surface/groundwater from flushing activities
Other: N/A

****PLEASE NOTE:** This notification is based on the initial report of a spill/release/emission event/threat or other such occurrence received by TCEQ. Since this notification may contain preliminary information, the TCEQ cannot verify the types or quantities of releases at this time and cannot make any definitive determination about the potential danger to human health or the environment as a result of this release. Specific chemicals, quantities, and the identified risk to human health and safety or environment may change as more information becomes available. TCEQ is providing the information available for the incident at the time of the notification. Staff may not have all the information requested on this Template.