



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS CHANGE SUMMARY

Report:	Freedom Industries Chemical Release
Recommendation Number:	2014-01-I-WV-R1
Date Issued:	September 28, 2016
Recipient:	American Water Works Association (AWWA)
New Status:	Closed – Acceptable Response
Date of Status Change:	January 18, 2017

Recommendation Text:

Communicate the findings, lessons learned and recommendations contained within this report to all American Water Works Association members. Emphasize the importance of source water protection planning, emergency planning, and coordination with local, state and federal entities, and the public, to ensure timely notification of potential water contamination events and emergencies.

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

On January 9, 2014, aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) at Freedom Industries, Inc., in Charleston, West Virginia, were found to have leaked approximately 10,000 gallons of Shurflot 944, a mixture of crude methylcyclohexane methanol (MCHM) and polyglycol ethers (PPH, stripped), through two small holes on the tank floor. The secondary containment, or dike wall, had cracks and holes from disrepair that allowed tank contents to escape the containment and find a pathway to the Elk River. Once in the river, the tank contents flowed downstream to the intake of the West Virginia American Water (WVAW) water treatment facility, about 1.5 miles down-river from Freedom. On the evening of January 9, 2014, WVAW issued a Do Not Use (DNU) order for 93,000 customer accounts (approximately 300,000 residents) across a portion of nine counties.

The US Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board's (CSB's) investigation found several issues related to identifying and assessing hazardous chemicals stored near water treatment intakes, as well as responding to and communicating public health risks during drinking water contamination incidents. As the American Water Works Association (AWWA) is dedicated to the management and treatment of water through scientific and educational assistance to water utilities such as standards, water supply best practice manuals, training, networking, conferences, and regulatory advisories, CSB believes AWWA is well suited to receive a recommendation that informs water utilities about findings and lessons learned from incidents like the Freedom Industries release. With approximately 50,000 members, AWWA has a very broad reach and works with water utilities such as American Water and WVAW.

B. Response to the Recommendations

AWWA provided confirmation that a utility advisory had been sent to 9,500 utility members on September 28, 2016. The advisory alerted members to the release of the CSB's report and provided links to resources that support source water protection and emergency preparedness. The advisory directs utilities to the lessons learned referenced in the CSB's recommendation with additional resources on source water protection planning, emergency planning and coordination with local, state and federal agencies to ensure timely notification of the public in the event of emergencies.

C. Board Analysis and Decision

As AWWA has completed the actions specified in the recommendation, the Board voted to designate **Recommendation No. 2014-01-I-WV-R1** with the status "**Closed – Acceptable Action.**"