

Thomas Sahol

From: Thomas Sahol
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 3:37 PM
To: Belinda Blazic; Caryn Hoyer; Denise Koetas-Dale; Dominic P. DiYanni; Jeremy Liedtka; Matthew Litt; [Shreekant Dhopte](#)
Subject: OYCC Environmental Complaint
Attachments: 0_C01233863_33287487.pdf

All,

Apparently, last evening the NJDEP received a call about a black liquid that does not mix with water being seen in Blacks Creek in the rear of the Old York Country Club. The call precipitated a response by police, fire, and county health officials. I spoke with Sgt. Brodowski today about what he witnessed on the call last evening. Sgt. Brodowski informed me that no substance was found in any waterways but the Fire Department indicated some concern about discoloration in an unnamed tributary of Blacks Creek. This tributary is located between the Wirth property and the country club property. I was told the county health official took a sample of the water and as of this writing, we have no more information about what the county official may have determined. I did learn the discoloration was more in line with turbid water which is not unusual in streams – especially for several days after a rain event. While on scene, the fire department also witnessed a drone being flown over the country club property and lights were later seen on the country club property in an area centered on the land which would be off limits to the general public. Police officers attempted to locate whoever was using lights on the grounds but they could not find anyone. It is likely the lights were actually coming from a drone being flown above the country club property.

At approximately 12:30 this afternoon I went to the OYCC property and met with two NJDEP investigators, Mr. Wheeler from 3-Putt, a representative from Active Acquisitions, and an engineer from Colliers Engineering. The NJDEP investigators walked the entire property and saw a location where Colliers Engineering is monitoring work to remove a plastic liner in the bottom of a man-made pond. The plastic liner was apparently covered with a layer of silt and mud and those materials had to be excavated out along with the standing water so the plastic liner could be removed. The mud was being placed next to the man-made pond to dry. That mud is black in color as compared to the green grass where it is drying. There was also a water pump being used to remove the standing water in the man-made pond while the workers were removing the plastic liner materials. The water is being pumped out and is being sent away from the work area over one of the hills on the golf course and it is penetrating the ground and being absorbed. The NJDEP investigators wanted to confirm the pumped water did not enter a very small unnamed tributary of Blacks Creek so they walked that area as well. They found no evidence that any of the pumped water had accessed the small tributary or any other waterway near the country club property. In fact, the discharge point for the pumped water is approximately 200-300 yards from the nearest waterway.

What is important is that the NJDEP investigators found no evidence of the water getting into the creeks and they also found no evidence that the mud and silt being excavated off the plastic liner material of the man-made ponds had even come close to any waterways. Despite that this is starting to appear to be a false report, the NJDEP inspectors did take exception to two things at the property and they intend to issue two notices.

They are:

-A violation is being issued because the NJDEP investigators felt the engineers should have notified the NJDEP and sought a permit to dewater the basin so they could perform the liner removal. The NJDEP considers the water in the basins to be “owned by the state” and under control of the state and therefore a permit should have been issued to take the man-made pond water and put it on the golf course even though it is absorbing back into the ground. They made some reference to the annual well water allocation for the country club irrigation wells being the determining factor why they cannot take groundwater out of the man-made pond.

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-A violation is also being issued because the mud in the bottom of the basin may be considered a "pollutant" and to remove a pollutant and place it on the ground requires a permit from the NJDEP. The investigators readily offered that the permit would be issued, but the owners just didn't get the approval before doing the work.

The engineers from Colliers will be pursuing the permits at this time.

This is a long explanation, but the facts need to be shared.

Tom

Thomas A. Sahol
Township Administrator
Chesterfield Township
295 Bordentown-Chesterfield Road
Chesterfield, New Jersey 08515
(p) 609-298-2311 Ext. 101
(f) 609-298-0469



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Emergency Management Program

Bureau of Communications & Response Services

Mail Code 1400-01

P.O. Box 420

Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

609-588-2848

PHILIP D. MURPHY

Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER

Lt. Governor

SHAWN M. LATOURETTE

Commissioner

Health Officer

15 Pioneer Blvd, PO Box 6000

Westampton NJ 08060

TWP CLERK

300 BORDENTOWN-CHESTERFIE

CHESTERFIELD TWP NJ 08620

April 20, 2023

SUSPECTED HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE DISCHARGE NOTIFICATION

NJDEP CASE NUMBER: 23-04-19-1957-47

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has received verbal notification of an incident that may have resulted in a discharge of a hazardous substance within your jurisdiction.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13.1K-15 et seq., (P.L. 1984, c. 210) "Hazardous Substance Discharge - Reports and Notices Act" and N.J.A.C. 7:1E-5.1 et seq., "Hazardous Substance Discharge: Reports and Notices," attached is a copy of our Incident Notification Form which contains details of the suspected discharge. Further information concerning this incident may be obtained by contacting:

Water - Southern Regional Office

Water Quality

856-614-3655

Please refer to the above "NJDEP CASE NUMBER" in all correspondence concerning this incident.

Stephanie Cardell

Communications Officer

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Emergency Management Program

Bureau of Communications & Response Services

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection COMMUNICATION CENTER NOTIFICATION REPORT (A310)

Received:	19-APR-23	Comm. Center #:	23-04-19-1957-47
Operator:	91	Reviewed By:	
Incident ID:	861556		

Reporter Type:	Citizen Complaint				
Reported By:	Brett Anderson	Affiliation:		Phone:	610-662-6793
Street Address:	<NO DATA FOUND>	Municipality:	Chesterfield Twp	State:	New Jersey

Incident Category:	Other				
Location Description:	Blacks Creek behind				
Address:	228 Old York Rd				
Municipality:	Chesterfield Twp	County:	Burlington	State:	New Jersey
				Zip Code:	08515
Location Type:	Other	Occurred Date:	04/19/2023	Occurred Time:	07:04 PM

Substance Released:

ID	Substance	CAS#	Quantity	Units	Type	HAZMAT	TCPA	State	Contained
Known	UNKNOWN LIQUID		0	unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Liquid	No

Incident Type:	Spill			Incident Type 2:					
Injuries:	N	Public Evac:	N	Facility Evac:	N	Public Exposure:	N	Police at Scene:	N
Firemen at Scene:	N	DEP Requested:	Y	Road Closure:	N	Wind			
Contamination of:	Water				Speed/Direction:				
Watershed:				Other Watershed:	Blacks Creek				
Incident Description:	Caller reporting a black liquid in the creek, no odors, doesn't mix with the water. ***UPDATE**** David Docherty from Burlington County Health Dept requesting call back. @ 22:29 TR, 73								

Responsible Party Name:	Unknown				Responsible Party Phone:			
Responsible Party Street Address:								
Municipality:		County:		State:	New Jersey	Zip Code:		

Officials Notified:

Name	Affiliation	Phone	Date & Time	Action
	Water - South		04/19/2023 10:04 PM	Notification - Email
Oper # 639	CHESTERFIELD TWP	609-723-8300	04/19/2023 08:04 PM	Notification - A310
	F&W - Central		04/19/2023 10:04 PM	Notification - Email
	NJSP-ROIC		04/19/2023 10:04 PM	Notification - Email
Jared Makrancy	ER - South		04/19/2023 10:04 PM	Notification - Phone

	ER - South		04/19/2023 10:04 PM	Notification - Email
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Thomas Sahol

From: Thomas Sahol
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 3:08 PM
To: Shreekant Dhopte
Subject: RE: OYCC Environmental Complaint

They will have the records available and I did indicate we want a copy.
The investigator told me the report could take a few weeks before it was finalized.
I found that strange, but the State does work in mysterious ways.
Tom

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From: Shreekant Dhopte
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 2:26 PM
To: Thomas Sahol <TSahol@chesterfieldtwp.com>
Subject: Re: OYCC Environmental Complaint

Hi Tom,

Does the DEP submit a report and share the violation notices? It will be good to have them in our records. I am assuming these are public documents.

Regards,

Shreekant

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