



TOWN OF ULYSSES

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May 8, 2015

Tompkins County Department of Health
55 Brown Road
Ithaca, NY 14845

Attn: C. Elizabeth Cameron, PE, Director of Environmental Health

**Re: Ulysses WD#3 - Exceedance of Maximum Contaminant Limit
Progress Report and Proposed Schedule Revisions**

Dear Ms. Cameron;

As you are aware, the Town of Ulysses has been investigating methods to address the Total Trihalomethane (TTHM) exceedances in Water District #3. At the end of 2013, the Town began additional sampling and monitoring of TTHM's and also began researching treatment options that may be installed within the town's water storage facility to reduce TTHMs. Since that time, a hydraulic model and an associated Engineering Report evaluating relative options has been provided by Hunt Engineers. The report, submitted in September 2014, not only included a hydraulic analysis but also included the investigation of various improvement options and recommendations that were intended to meet the Tompkins County Department of Health January 15, 2015 deadline. That Engineering Report made reference to interim improvements consisting of changes in water tank operations and the installation of a TTHM reducing aeration system. It also suggested a long term option consisting of the Town pursuing financing for a connection to the Village of Trumansburg Water System.

Since the submission of this Engineering Report, we have continued to further sample, research, and evaluate our TTHM situation. During these subsequent investigations it has become clearer that current hydraulic conditions and the design and operation of our water storage tank may limit the effectiveness of such a treatment system if installed only in the Ulysses water tank. We have also discussed the potential to evaluate the installation of a TTHM reduction system in both the Town of Ulysses water storage tank and the Town of Ithaca water storage tank which may provide a more reliable solution with more consistent results. At this time, Tim Steed from Hunt Engineers is further evaluating and modeling this potential solution. In addition, the Town of Ithaca (in February, 2015) has identified their potential interest in cost sharing with this potential option.

We are continuing to evaluate four potential options for reducing TTHM's. They include:

- 1) TTHM reduction system at Ulysses Water Tank – We will continue to evaluate this option and the potential effectiveness of this option along with its relative cost. This option includes the installation of an aeration mixing system in the Ulysses Water Tank on Van Doren Road along with significant operational changes to the operation of the water tank levels.
- 2) TTHM reduction system at Ithaca Water Tank – we will be evaluating and modeling the installation of an aeration mixing system in the Town of Ithaca Water Tank (near the Cayuga Medical Center). Evaluation of this option will include the overall capital cost and the potential effectiveness of this potential system. A cost sharing opportunity and Inter-municipal Agreement (IMA) will be considered between the Townships of Ithaca and Ulysses for this option.
- 3) TTHM reduction system at both Water Tanks – the installation of aeration mixing systems in both tanks (Ulysses and Ithaca Water Storage Tanks) will be modeled to determine the potential benefit of utilizing both tank locations to reduce TTHM's for a more dependable option and how this cost compares to other options. This will also include a cost sharing opportunity as well as an IMA with the Town of Ithaca.
- 4) Connection to the Village of Trumansburg Water System – We will continue to evaluate the potential connection to the Village Water supply including the potential capital costs, potential water rates, and the potential financing that may be available for this option. This has been identified as the best long term option, however, the cost is considerably more than the other 3 potential solutions.

Recently, the Town of Ulysses has contracted with MRB Group to be the Town's general consulting engineer. It is anticipated that MRB Group will be reviewing each of the options, as noted above, and assisting the Town in selecting an option. Each option will be evaluated for its effectiveness in reducing TTHM's below the Maximum Contamination Level (MCL), the anticipated capital costs, and what the actual end user cost may be based on the anticipated water rate structure for each option.

In order to determine the financial impact of any of the options, MRB Group will prepare an engineering report. The report will be utilized to determine financing potential for the project regardless of which option is chosen. The engineering report will be submitted to NYS EFC to pursue funding through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program. In addition, the Town has initiated discussions with the Village of Trumansburg over a potential water rate for the option of connecting to the Village system so that this option, and the end user cost, can be appropriately evaluated.

As we continue to bring this TTHM issue to resolution, we realize that we will need more time to properly evaluate each alternative so that we can be confident in selecting the best long term solution for our water users. Considerations of the various capital costs, effectiveness of each option, long term reliability of each option, and certainly the potential financing and water rates are all important aspects of this decision. As we are very aware of the violation issues and the concern regarding TTHM's, we would respectfully ask that

the Tompkins County Health Department consider granting a time extension so that the Town can pursue the best long term option with more confidence.

We are respectfully requesting an extension to the Tompkins County Health Department Resolution #13.1.20 and associated compliance schedule. The schedule would be much shorter should an aerator or dual aerators be the optimal solution. The longest solution—a connection to Trumansburg—would require the most time. We are basing our request for an extension on the longest amount of time we might require, therefore considering the connection to Trumansburg, the schedule would be as follows. If one of the aerator solutions is selected, the work will be completed by June 2016.

Complete Engineering Report	Aug, 2015
Submit for NYSEFC Funding assistance and IUP Project Listing	Sept, 2015
Secure Financing (EFC Finance Application or Bond)	February, 2016
Begin Design of Improvements	March, 2016
Complete Design of Improvements	December, 2016
Start Improvement Construction	April, 2016
Complete Improvement Construction and Meet Compliance	April, 2017

Residents of Water District 3 are highly concerned over the potential costs they may have to incur over and above their current estimated annual fee of over \$500. Hearing their concerns, the town initiated a TTHM Working Group that has met twice since formed in 2015 to help assist in the evaluation process.

The Town remains extremely aware of the need to correct this violation and wants to continue to work closely with the Tompkins County Department of Health as well as affected residents to identify and implement an acceptable solution as expediently as possible. If the TCDH would like to meet to discuss the above proposal and request in more detail, please let me know and we would be glad to take time to meet and discuss. In addition, if you have any other immediate questions regarding our proposed approach or schedule, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Thomas
Town Supervisor