



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 14, 2019

Trafalgar Site Update

NORTH LITTLE ROCK—The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has requested additional United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) air monitoring to collect data from locations both upwind and downwind of the Trafalgar site. EPA sampled for constituents of concern including fine particulate matter, volatile organic compounds, and aromatic hydrocarbons, for three days. Monitors were deployed on Thursday, February 7, 2019, but equipment could not record air-quality data due to freezing temperatures. Air monitoring resumed on Sunday, February 10, 2019 and ended on Tuesday, February 12, 2019.

Today, ADEQ received EPA’s particulate matter analysis from the data collected at the off-site air monitors. EPA’s data analysis indicates that the air quality at all locations on all days of monitoring was within the Air Quality Index “good” range. A copy of EPA’s evaluation can be found on ADEQ’s Bella Vista Community page: <https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/bella-vista/pdfs/20190214-epa-results-of-off-site-pm-sampling.pdf>. While there were no exceedances reported, EPA advises residents in the impacted area to use caution when smoke is present. ADEQ expects to receive EPA’s results for the volatile organic compounds and aromatic hydrocarbons sampling within the next few weeks.

On-site preparation continues as the City of Bella Vista is rerouting an existing stormwater culvert. EnSafe’s initial report identified the culvert as discharging directly into the site. Relocating the culvert will cut off a source of oxygen to the underground fire and prevent contamination of stormwater runoff. The new culvert will route runoff east, away from the Trafalgar site.

For further updates and information regarding the underground fire at the Trafalgar site, please visit ADEQ’s Bella Vista Community Information page: <https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/bella-vista/>. The page contains up-to-date information and answers to frequently asked questions. Resources, reports, and weekly updates can be found on the page’s left sidebar. In addition, the Arkansas Department of Health’s weekly particulate matter review is posted to the information page under Trafalgar Site Resources.

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