



Natalie E. Tennant

Secretary of State
State of West Virginia

January 17, 2014

Thomas Frieden, MD, MPH
Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Frieden:

I write today to request your immediate attention and assistance regarding the public need for transparent information in the case of the chemical spill that contaminated the water supply for thousands of West Virginians last week.

I have spent days on water lines, talking with West Virginians who are justifiably concerned about the safety of the public water service. They deserve easily accessible information that will help restore their confidence in the water supply.

I request that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention take the lead in creating a website that provides clear and accessible answers to the many questions West Virginians have in one accessible and easy to use location.

As you know this is a multi-agency response involving federal, state, and local jurisdictions. A single source of public information would make it easier for concerned West Virginians to quickly find the answers they need to restore public confidence.

The website should provide information including a comprehensive timeline of events, color-coded maps of areas that have been deemed safe to use the water and those that have not, information about MCHM, and water test results.

Most importantly, the site should provide information about the methodology used to determine "safe" levels of MCHM in the water supply. In order for the public to regain confidence in the water supply, it is incumbent upon the responsible agencies to provide as much information as possible in an easily accessible and understandable format.

I await your response to this urgent request and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Natalie E. Tennant".

Natalie E. Tennant
West Virginia Secretary of State

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