Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Southeast District Office
3301 Gun Club Road, MSC 7210-1
West Palm Beach, FL 33406-3007
561-681-6600

Rick Scott
Governor

Carlos Lopez-Cantera
Lt. Governor

Noah Valenstein
Secretary

June 1, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: kglassleighton@ci.stuart.fl.us

Kelli Glass Leighton, Mayor
City of Stuart
121 SW Flagler Ave.
Stuart, FL 34994

Re: City of Stuart Public Safety / Fire Rescue
Located at or near 800 SE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Stuart, Martin County, FL 34994
FDEP Site ID No. COM_363842, SIS ID No.: 761-1

Dear Mayor Leighton:

As you are aware, based on results of sampling of the city's water system in July 2014, the city along with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, has been engaged in efforts to address elevated levels of Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). This sampling was performed as part of EPA's periodic data collection and research on contaminants of emerging concern (CECs)

Because there is no regulatory limit, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for these constituents, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has established a Health Advisory Level (HAL) to provide guidance to state and local officials in evaluating drinking water quality based on levels below which adverse health effects are not anticipated to occur over a lifetime of exposure. This HAL is 70 nanograms/Liter (ng/L).

DEP requires that all public water systems, including the City of Stuart, meet all federal drinking water standards. In addition, DEP has also been working with City of Stuart to ensure that steps are taken to provide drinking water that is below the established HALs to provide additional protection.

DEP has been actively working with the city to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to reduce the levels of these CECs in the water supply as quickly as possible. As a result of the coordinated efforts including blending and temporarily taking impacted production wells offline, levels in the delivered water supply returned to levels below the

advisory levels, and the delivered water continues meets all federal drinking water standards. The Department remains committed to working with the city as you work to identify and implement long-term solutions to ensure these levels remain below the HAL.

To aid in the identification of these future steps, the Department has been investigating potential contamination source areas of PFOA and PFOS in the city of Stuart. Because PFOA and PFOS is a composition of synthetic industrial chemicals which have been historically used in fire suppression foams, DEP looked into a possible discharge at the City of Stuart's Public Safety/Fire Rescue Facility currently occupied by the city's police and fire departments. The City of Stuart's Public Safety/Fire Rescue Facility has occupied this location since the 1970s. According to city personnel, Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) potentially containing PFAS was used in firefighting training exercises conducted at this facility from the 1980s to the early 2000s. During March 2018, the City of Stuart's environmental consultant, Aquatech Geosciences, Inc., installed and sampled two shallow wells identified as "BW" and "DW" near the fire rescue facility property where the AFFF was reportedly used during training. Well BW showed 320 ng/L PFOA/PFOS and well DW showed 30,100 ng/L.

Based on these findings, there is an indication that contaminants have been released or discharged into the environment at, or in the vicinity of, the City of Stuart's Public Safety / Fire Rescue facility, 800 SE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Stuart, Martin County, FL 34994.

While the Department's investigation is on-going, please be advised that Chapter 62-780, Florida Administrative Code ("F.A.C."), establishes a process and time schedule for assessing and remediating contaminated sites. All persons who have legal responsibility for site rehabilitation, pursuant to Chapters 376 or 403, F.S., are required to comply with the provisions of this rule and are subject to enforcement to compel such compliance. A responsible party is required by 62-780, F.A.C., to initiate a site assessment within 60 days of discovery of the contamination and to submit a site assessment report to the Department within 270 days of discovery of the contamination. As a potentially responsible party at the above-identified site, the City of Stuart is subject to the requirements for assessment and remediation of such contamination under Chapter 62-780, F.A.C.

We encourage you to reach out to us with any questions you may have and recommend that you call to schedule a meeting to discuss next steps in the assessment and cleanup plan development process. Please contact Ms. Diane Pupa, Permitting and Waste Cleanup Program Administrator at (561) 681-6782 or via email at diane.pupa@floridadep.gov, or Mr. Paul Wierzbicki, at (561) 681-6677 or via e-mail at paul.wierzbicki@floridadep.gov. If we do not hear from you within two weeks, we will call your office to coordinate a meeting time.

Be advised that in an effort to make a more efficient submittal process for all incoming Waste Cleanup correspondence, the Department is streamlining our workflow process. We are requesting that all correspondence sent to the Southeast District related to the Waste Cleanup program be emailed to: SED_Permitting@floridadep.gov. Please ensure that all correspondence submitted contains a DEP Site/Project ID number in the cover letter/email. The Site number assigned to this project is COM_363842. Please include this number on all copies of reports that you submit as well.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer K Smith

Jennifer K. Smith
District Director
Southeast District

cc: Louis J. Boglioli, III, Acting City Manager, lboglioli@ci.stuart.fl.us
Michael J. Mortell, City Attorney, mmortell@ci.stuart.fl.us
David Peters, City of Stuart, dpeters@ci.stuart.fl.us
Todd Reinhold, REHP, Florida Health Martin County, Todd.reinhold@flhealth.gov
FDEP: Brian Dougherty, Kelly Crain, Joni Synatschk, Jamie Shakar