


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Rudolph S. Chow, P.E. Director	CITY of BALTIMORE <i>MEMO</i>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	City Council Resolution 19-0183R		

January 10, 2020

TO:

Health Committee

INTRODUCTION

I am herein reporting on City Council Resolution 19-0183R introduced by Council Members Burnett, Dorsey, Bullock, Henry, Pinkett, Middleton, Clarke, President Scott, and Council Member Reisinger.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Resolution is to request the Department of Public Works to testify at an informational hearing regarding a recent pipe break that spilled chlorinated water into Dead Run stream and a subsequent reported fish kill of 2,000 fish.

BRIEF HISTORY

On Saturday, September 7, 2019 a call was placed to Baltimore County regarding a broken water main underneath the Ingleside Avenue bridge in Baltimore County. The County directed the caller to reach out to Baltimore City to report the break, and the caller did report the incident via the City's 311 system, as directed, that same day. Within an hour of the receipt of the 311 Service Request, a Public Works Maintenance inspector responded, confirming that a 12-inch water main was broken at the location and discharging water into Dead Run stream. Isolating the break would require the closure of a valve, which would obviously impact residential and business customers for the duration of the repairs. Due to the size of the main and its location, it was determined that a contractor would need to be mobilized to make the repairs. As a result, the referral was made to the Office of Engineering and Construction (OEC) and the location was completed as expeditiously as possible. The work required coordination with Baltimore County Engineering, Baltimore County Traffic, Water Analyzer Office, Valve contractor, and the Maryland State Highway Administration.

- OEC received the location referral the morning of Monday, September 9, and the contractor was onsite scouting by 2 PM; joined by OEC and consulting engineer on site at 3:45 PM;
- Baltimore County Engineering and Construction was on site to investigate Ingleside Bridge integrity; County Traffic shutdown the bridge for safety;

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- Valve contractor onsite at 3:45 PM to prepare isolating the 12 inch main and stop the leak, while contractor set up bypass (no bottled water was required during the repairs as the bypass kept the lack of water to a minimum);
- Main was partially isolated at 5 PM, affecting 6 services (5 residents on Ingleside and the restaurant at 1620 St Agnes);
- At 6:45 PM, valve contractor had to shut an additional valve in order to complete the shutdown of the 12-inch main, putting additional residents, including the Ingleside Gardens, out of water temporarily;
- OEC directed the contractor to abandon the 12" main and remove the 12 x 20" tee on Tuesday, September 10, and on Wednesday, September 11 excavation and preparations to repair began;
- All work was completed by the morning of Friday, September 13; Valve contractor restored water to the 20 inch main on Monday, September 16;
- The contractor needed additional parts to renew the service at 1620 St Agnes Lane, which required a shutdown; the shutdown was scheduled and completed on Friday, October 4.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) prepared a field report on September 9 detailing the fish kill attributed to the release of chlorinated water into Dead Run. MDE looked at three stream segments downstream of the water main leak, reporting a combined total of 187 dead fish. MDE applied a formula to each section of the stream, and, based on the formula, estimated a total fish kill of 1,946 fish. As a correction to the record, American eels are not a federal or State protected species. The Department of the Interior conducted an evaluation in 2015 and declined to list the eels as endangered or threatened.

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT POSITION

Representative of the Department of Public Works will attend the hearing on this resolution to provide more detailed information and to answer any questions the Council Committee may have on City Council Resolution 19-0183R.

Should the Committee have any questions prior to the hearing, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Marcia Collins at 410-396-1960, or via email at Marcia.Collins@baltimorecity.gov.



Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.
Director

RSC:MMC

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