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**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

1800 Washington Boulevard • Baltimore MD 21230

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Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Governor

Kendl P. Philbrick  
Secretary

Michael S. Steele  
Lt. Governor

JUN 20 2005

Jonas A. Jacobson  
Deputy Secretary

Royden Powell, Town Manager  
Town of Centreville  
101 Lawyers Row  
Centreville, Md. 21617

Dear Mr. Powell:

This is in regards to two sanitary sewer overflows from the Centreville sewer system, one from a manhole near the North Pumping Station observed on April 27, 2005 and the other from a broken sewer pipe behind the Acme store near the Centreville High School property line observed on April 28, 2005. The overflow from the manhole was attributed to a blockage at the inlet valve. Although the original overflow amount estimate was 500 gallons, it seems that the start time when it was first observed may have been earlier (8:00 A.M.). Please advise if this changes the estimate of the amount. The overflow behind the Acme store was attributed to a collapsed sewer line. This problem appears to have been identified initially in February 2005 and has resulted in numerous sewage backups into the High School and discharges of sewage through cracks into the ground, placing sewage in a position likely to pollute State groundwater. Centreville has been monitoring the manhole and pumping it out to prevent overflows from the manhole itself and building backups. Please let us know if steps have been taken to also prevent any ongoing underground discharge, such as by blocking the flow from entering the collapsed pipe, and when this was done.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is concerned about the recent overflows from the Centreville sewer system. MDE anticipates that sewer system owners and operators will take effective, timely action to correct and prevent overflows and backups. MDE is offering Centreville an opportunity to provide further information regarding the reasons for the recent violations and what corrective actions have been taken or are planned to correct problems and prevent any additional unauthorized discharges. Please provide us, within the next 14 days, with information regarding the status of repairs or replacement of the collapsed sewer line and what actions have been taken to make sure the inlet valve at the other manhole does not clog again. If improvements are still needed to ensure compliance, please include a plan and schedule for beginning and completing the improvements. In addition, please provide us with the name of the individual who is the certified superintendent of operator responsible for the Centreville sewer system.

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Mr. Royden Powell  
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The Department will review information provided by Centreville to determine if an enforcement action, such as the issuance of an order and/or penalties, is warranted. Environment Article, Section 9-342, Annotated Code of Maryland, authorizes the Department to assess administrative penalties up to \$1,000 per day up to a \$50,000 maximum and civil penalties up to \$10,000 per day for unauthorized discharges of wastewater.

If there are any questions related to this letter please contact me at (410) 537-3567, toll-free at 1-800-633-6101, or by email at [bsummers@mde.state.md.us](mailto:bsummers@mde.state.md.us) or Thomas C. Boone, Director, Compliance Program, at (410) 537-3510 or by email at [tboone@mde.state.md.us](mailto:tboone@mde.state.md.us).

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RMS', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert M. Summers, Director  
Water Management Administration

RMS/tcb