

Lesterville

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sumers of the ban. They are implementing a course of action to determine the source and to correct what may have contributed to the unsafe drinking water sample. Bottled water is being provided to residents, and a portable shower facility is being established.

PCE is a colorless organic liquid with a mild, chloroform-like odor, according to the DENR. The chemical's greatest use is in the textile industry and as a component of aerosol dry-cleaning products.

Some people who drink water containing tetra-chloroethylene in excess of the drinking water standard over many years could have problems with their liver, the DENR said. In addition, they may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Officials initially traced the PCE to one site in Lesterville but are testing other locations as well, McIntire said.

Lesterville mayor Muriel Pratt said city officials spent Monday meeting with the DENR and county officials to determine the source and extent of the problem.

Residents were contacted about the situation, Pratt said. In addition, a community meeting was held Monday night to provide residents with information and to answer their questions, she said.

"We're advising people that the ban is in effect until further notice," she said. "We're telling our residents to expect this to last at least two days."

In addition, officials were also trying to care for residents' everyday needs during the water ban, Pratt said.

"They're delivering cases of bottled water door to door. We could use more donations of water," she said. "We also have the portable showers (from Yankton County emergency management) and a heated room so people can take a shower and get dressed."

Additional water samples were flown Monday to state labs in Pierre. Results should take 24 hours, so Lesterville residents are advised not to use the water for two days,

according to the DENR. The PCE in the Lesterville water supply was found in the course of other testing, according to Lee Rettig, spokesman for the Yankton County Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

"Annually, the DENR runs generalized tests for certain types of chemicals that are by-products of the treatment process," he said. "The annual test was conducted last month. The analyzed results showed an item at a higher level than it would normally be."

The initial test was conducted Sept. 26 and another vial was collected Thursday, Rettig said. The vial was tested Friday, and the results came back Monday morning. Upon learning of the results, DENR officials immediately flew into the Yankton airport. The teams then traveled to Lesterville for further sample collections and to talk with Lesterville officials.

The DENR included separate teams for groundwater and drinking water specialists, Rettig said. They took water samples at several locations around town. Samples were again drawn from the original location as well as other locations.

"We expect a response (on the lab results) within 24 hours," Rettig said.

The DENR officials haven't found any indication of the PCE outside of Lesterville, McIntire said.

"The towns around Lesterville haven't been receiving any 'hits' on this," he said. "Other towns, like Menno, Utica, Tabor and Tyndall, all came back fine."

Local officials will know much more today (Tuesday) and can then chart the next course of action, Rettig said.

"Best-case scenario, this is an isolated incident," he said. "Worst-case scenario, this is widespread and we have to look beyond Lesterville."

Pratt is asking local residents to make the best of what is hopefully a short-lived situation.

"We're just asking people to stay positive," she said.

For more information, contact Rettig at (605) 668-5289.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

S. Dakota State Park Licenses Now On sale

PIERRE (AP) — The new South Dakota annual state park entrance licenses are now for sale.

The 2015 sticker features a photo of Bear Butte State Park and will be good through May 22, 2016. The 2014 sticker that includes a photo of an orange tent is valid through May 18.

The license allows use of the facilities at nearly 60 state park and recreation areas across South Dakota and is required for entrance into designated state parks, recreation areas and lake-side use areas. It does not cover camping costs or additional fees.

Sioux Falls Landfill Opposes Proposed Methane Rule

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A South Dakota landfill that was considered ahead of the curve five years ago when it installed a system to capture gas given off by decomposing trash and turn it into energy now opposes proposed federal regulations that would require large landfills to control methane gas emissions.

The Sioux Falls Regional Landfill, which serves five counties, has been collecting methane since 2009 and selling it to an ethanol plant to burn as fuel.

Proposed federal rules could require upgrades to the landfill's system and

might jeopardize a financial incentive it collects for voluntarily reducing emissions, Landfill Superintendent Dave McElroy told the *Argus Leader* newspaper.

The Poet ethanol plant near Chancellor pays Sioux Falls \$2 million annually for the gas, and \$150,000 annually for the carbon credits the city earns for voluntarily curbing emissions.

"At Poet, we really value our partnership with the city," said Dean Frederickson, the plant's general manager.

Methane is a greenhouse gas that, like carbon dioxide, traps heat in the atmosphere, contributing to global warming. Landfills are among the top sources of methane emissions, along with livestock and natural gas production.

"Methane is 34 times more potent than carbon dioxide at heating the planet, and it must be addressed to prevent runaway climate change," said Danielle Bausan, managing director of the energy policy team at the Center for American Progress, a think tank in Washington, D.C.

Federal officials are expected to make a decision on the proposed new rules by April.

Vigil

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Behavior Health and YPD chief Brian Paulsen.

Stanage had high praises for the week-long program.

"We are involved in a number of pretty important things right now," Stanage said. "But the crisis intervention teams training was probably one of the most exciting and one of the best things that I've been involved in a long time."

CIT training took place on the campus of the Human Services Center (HSC) two weeks ago. It involved a number of entities that deal with mental health issues helping train officers from both the Yankton Police Department and Vermillion Police Department on how to handle situations that may involve mental issues.

Stanage said the training is a real asset to officers.

"I really do think the training helps because it's so focused on those verbal de-escalation skills," he said. "It gives officers an opportunity to interact with individuals who are experiencing mental illness, so I think it's a wonderful thing. And it really does reduce lots of bad outcomes for people."

Paulsen said a desire to

educate the department on resources available was a driving force in his decision to bring the training to Yankton.

"We have too many cases of mental illness that law enforcement is responding to," Paulsen said. "I saw it, personally, as a revolving door where officers were really taking the path of least resistance and we had citizens being sent to HSC. And I said, 'Let's see if we can come up with something to change that path so that we provide or know the resources that are out there.' And when I started to poll some of the officers, they had no idea."

Paulsen said the training was well received by the nine YPD officers involved. He added training will continue in March and September of next year with supplemental training planned every two years.

"I really think that we're going to be able to do something to completely change the culture we have within law enforcement and the community on how we deal with the mentally ill," he said.

Diane Nicholson, co-leader of the Yankton chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, told the *Press & Dakotan* she was impressed by the training.

"I was very fortunate to be one of the people on the panel at the training that happened a couple weeks ago, and it was just outstanding," Nicholson said. "It's something that's going to help the community and it's a great boon for the mental health area and those with mental health issues."

Monday night's event also included a candlelight vigil to show support for those dealing with mental illness.

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