COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
NORTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE
13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, Virginia 22193
(703) 583-3800 Fax (703) 583-3821
www.deq.virginia.gov

Molly Joseph Ward
Secretary of Natural Resources

David K. Paylor
Director

Thomas A. Faha
Regional Director

November 17, 2015

The Washington Post Company
1300 17th Street North
Arlington, Virginia 22209

RE: **CONFIRMED PETROLEUM RELEASE**
Robinson Terminal North at 500/501 North Union Street, city of Alexandria
DEQ Pollution Complaint (PC) tracking #2016-3090

Dear Sir or Ma'am:

On October 26, 2015, a petroleum discharge was reported to DEQ as part of a bona fide prospective purchaser application made by Alexandria North Terminal, LLC. The Department of Environmental Quality (the "Department") will track this discharge as **PC #2016-3090**.

State Water Control Law prohibits the discharge of oil which enters, or may reasonably be expected to enter into or upon state waters, lands, or storm drain systems within the Commonwealth and imposes liability for damages and cleanup costs upon (1) the person discharging or causing or permitting a discharge or a substantial threat of discharge and (2) the operator of any facility from which a discharge has occurred or from which there is a substantial threat of discharge.[1]

Based on the information provided to the Department, it appears that you are the operator of a facility from which there has been a discharge of oil into or upon state waters, lands, or storm drain systems within the Commonwealth. Code § 62.1-44.34:18(B) requires you to take any such action as may be deemed necessary in the judgment of the State Water Control Board (the "Board") to contain and clean up the discharge.

[1] Code § 62.1-44.34:18.

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If you perform the containment and cleanup actions required by Virginia law, it will not be necessary for the Board to initiate an administrative or judicial proceeding to render a final determination of liability. The first steps required for containment and cleanup include:

- conducting an investigation of the source, extent, and risk posed by the release; and
- submitting a Site Characterization Report (SCR), and, if necessary, a Free Product Removal Report, to this office by **January 19, 2016**.

Please refer to the enclosed fact sheet(s) for a list of the recommended elements of the required report(s). Additional information is available in the Storage Tank Program Technical Manual, which may be downloaded from the "download library" at the Department's petroleum program website, www.deq.virginia.gov/tanks. If your discussion of these elements in your report does not adequately describe your site conditions and cleanup rationale, please include any additional information necessary to clarify and complete the report.

The Virginia Petroleum Storage Tank Fund (VPSTF or the "Fund"), also administered by the Department on behalf of the Board, may be available to reimburse you for costs to investigate and clean up the release (fact sheet enclosed). Please note that prior approval of site work is required if you plan to seek reimbursement from the Fund. You may request prior approval by submitting an Activity Authorization Form (AAF) to this office before you start investigation and clean up activities. You are not required to obtain pre-approval for conducting activities needed to abate immediate hazards; however, it is highly recommended that you contact this office as soon as possible should an emergency situation occur. Any activities performed more than 24 hours before the date a discharge was reported are ineligible for reimbursement.

Owners and operators who have insurance coverage for the costs of cleaning up a petroleum discharge will not have access to the VPSTF for reimbursement for any costs covered by the policy. Some homeowner's insurance policies cover some of the costs associated with a heating oil discharge. <u>You are responsible for contacting your insurance company to determine if coverage exists, and, if applicable, making a timely claim on your insurance policy in the event of a petroleum discharge</u>.

The Department recommends that persons who are not familiar with Virginia's environmental corrective action procedures consider hiring an environmental consultant. The consultant should: (1) demonstrate knowledge of Virginia's technical and administrative requirements under this program; (2) have experience with situations similar to yours; and (3) provide justification of work to be performed and their proposed costs.

If you choose not to perform the required corrective action, the Board may elect to initiate either administrative or judicial enforcement proceedings against you. In any administrative proceeding your rights under Code § 2.2-4019 include notice and a chance to appear in person or by a representative to present factual data, argument, and proof in connection with this matter. During this proceeding you may dispute the Department's allegation that you are the operator of a facility from which a discharge has occurred.

Please advise us if you dispute any of the observations recited herein or if there is other information of which DEQ should be aware. In the event that discussions with staff do not lead to a satisfactory conclusion concerning the contents of this letter, you may elect to participate in DEQ's Process for Early Dispute Resolution. If you complete the Process for Early Dispute Resolution and are not satisfied with the resolution, you may request in writing that DEQ take all necessary steps to issue a case decision where appropriate. For further information on the Process for Early Dispute Resolution, please ask the DEQ contact listed below or visit http://townhall.virginia.gov/L/GetFile.cfm?File=E:\townhall\docroot\GuidanceDocs\440\GDoc_DEQ_2672_v1.pdf.

This letter is intended to provide information to assist you in evaluating your compliance obligations and is not intended to be a case decision under the Administrative Process Act. **Alex Wardle has been assigned as the case manager for this PC#** and will assist you in completing a rapid and effective release investigation. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the information contained in this letter, please contact Alex Wardle at (703) 583-3822 or at Alexander.Wardle@deq.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

Randy Chapman
Environmental Manager
Remediation

Encl: Program Fact Sheets
AAF

cc: File