

# TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

## INTEROFFICE MEMO

**DATE:** August 12, 2008

**TO:** SRP File SRS-01035 (ELMCO)

**FROM:** Ashley A. Holt

**RE:** Seep Search Along Harpeth River

During Pam Davee's presentation at the ELMCO public meeting on August 7, 2008, she stated that 4 new seeps had been found earlier in the week by the HRWWA along the Harpeth River. She said that the seeps had noticeable odors and were located further downstream than any other seep previously found. I contacted Pam on Monday, August 11, 2008 to discuss her comments and to schedule a meeting with her at the location of the newly discovered seeps. She informed me that Mike Cain, HRWA's Watershed and Assessment Coordinator, found the seeps earlier in the week and that we could schedule a meeting with him. I contacted Mr. Cain and he said that he didn't really find any seeps, but that he noticed "wet spots" along the bank of the Harpeth River and he smelled significant odors while walking along the river. I told him that I would like to meet with him and ELMCO's consultant at the location along the Harpeth River where he first noticed the odors so that samples could be obtained from any seeps that were found. I arranged to meet him and Dwight Hinch (TriAd Environmental) at the Harpeth River on Tuesday, August 12, 2008 at 9:30 am so that he could take us to the locations where he noticed the odors.

On August 12, 2008, at 9:40 am, I met Dwight Hinch, Mike Cain and Pam Davee at the Harpeth River near Battle Ground Academy School in Franklin, Tennessee. Mike directed us to the location on the Harpeth River where he first noticed the odors earlier in the week. We walked downstream from this location along and sometimes in the Harpeth River for approximately 150 feet. Mike said that he noticed a faint "cat urine" smell, but that the odor had been much more noticeable when he was previously at the river. None of the rest of us smelled any odors of any kind. Dwight and I both stated that the cat urine smell is not in any way similar to a solvent smell, and that a solvent smell is what we would expect to find at a seep contaminated with solvents. Dwight and I both talked about being able to detect a cat urine-like odor at times at HR-2 (the most contaminated seep along the Harpeth River), but could not explain why it was present. There were also no "wet spots" visible along any portion of the river bank, so no seep samples could be obtained.

We went to HR-2, and HR-1, but only Mike Cain was able to detect any odors. We then walked to the trench area, but no odors were noticeable. There was a biological sheen on the water in the middle trench, but no free product was visible. We went into Liberty Creek, which was essentially dry, except for very small pools of stagnant water, and only Mike Cain could detect any odors. We then went to Scott Martin's property to observe a seep that Pam Davee said that she observed on Sunday, August 10, 2008. Mr. Martin called Pam on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, to report a new seep along his property line at the Harpeth River. Mr. Martin complained of odors to Pam, so she visited his property on Sunday and supposedly observed a new seep and sheen on the Harpeth River and detected significant odors. Upon our inspection of the new seep area, no seep or sheen nor odor was detected by anyone present.

To summarize, no new seeps or odors were observed along the Harpeth River in the locations specified by Mike Cain and Pam Davee.

