

Greetings.

Thanks to all of you for serving on this commission and for the opportunity to speak.

My name is Judy Gibbs. I live at 2335 Wilkyns Avenue, which is within the Tischer Creek watershed.

On the morning of the spill, I did not know it had occurred. I had taken my grandkids to the creek in the Fryberger Woods area with sand toys and towels, and we planned to play in the cool water and shade of the creek, which winds around the neighborhood. *and snack*

To my horror, I found several large brook trout dead in the water. ~~I didn't mention it to the kids.~~ Then a person from the Pollution Control Agency arrived, collecting fish to measure and photograph. We assisted in collecting fish, and my four-year-old grandson marveled at the beauty of the Brook Trout and was fascinated by being able to see its gills.

The media reported on the spill almost immediately. The city did not file its report until nearly a week later,

In the public, we only have our assumptions about what took place.

Something like this might have happened. If this jug represents a 500,000-gallon reservoir, several scenarios might have presented themselves to the utility ops workers. If you aren't familiar with how the system works, you might only know the obvious - to turn the jug handle to release water. As the water drains, a vacuum is created inside the tank, and the draining water slows or might even stop. One has several options at that time. One would wait for the air to slowly seep back into the tank. Perhaps if one knows to open the valve, that would be an option. However, if insufficient training didn't present that as an option, one might open the jug and allow the entire container to drain out all at once.

We haven't been told what happened, and we don't know the policies, procedures, or permits needed to manage these water utilities.

We don't know who to hold accountable.

We hope the staff is given what they need to be successful in their jobs. Were the workers given adequate training to operate these systems? Do they have enough information to understand the toxic nature of chlorinated drinking water? Inexperience can be excused—once.

If it's incompetence, laziness, or management failures to train and prepare workers for success *adequately*, that's different. ~~adequately~~

If there is any good in this, it's that we now know every age class of Brook trout lived in the stream, and species the DNR didn't know about were found as well. This speaks volumes about the important work of further protecting the 16 trout streams within our city.