

**MAIN OFFICE**

125 19th Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101

T. 304.424.8535 F. 304.485.3802

BILLING OFFICE

1919 Garfield Ave. | P.O. Box 1629
Parkersburg, WV 26102

T. 304.424.8550 F. 304.424.8555

July 15, 2026

Dr. Travis McDermott, DC
PO Box 6213
Vienna, WV 26105
(by email: travismcdermott@rocketmail.com)

Re: FOIA Request – Peoples Cartage
Warehouse Fire

Dear Dr. McDermott:

In response to your request for information (FOIA) that was sent by email to the City of Parkersburg on July 8, 2026, concerning the recent fire that occurred at the Peoples Cartage Warehouse, I am providing the following information. First, I am responding on behalf of the Parkersburg Utility Board and not the City of Parkersburg. I am not authorized to respond to this FOIA request on behalf of the City of Parkersburg, only on behalf of the Parkersburg Utility Board. Second, as set out in your request, this information is provided for the time period of “July 1, 2026 to the present” (July 1, 2026, to July 8, 2026).

1. Due to the location and source of the wells the Parkersburg Utility Board uses, no public record or writing exists.
2. No public record or writing exists.
3. Attached as Exhibit A is a 7 page document that contains communications between Tim Barker (Treatment Operations Supervisor) and myself. No other public record or writing exists.

4. No public record or writing exists.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Bennett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "E" and "B".

Eric Bennett
General Manager

cc:

Parkersburg Utility Board
Jeff Reed, Counsel

Exhibit A

10:49

5G



Eric ›

Sun, Jul 5 at 6:00 PM

How are we doing on water?

7.8 mg
19.4' south
17.6' north

What are we pumping?

Around 6mgd

You have any concerns?

Not really at this time. It looks like it's getting more and more contained. At some point I think we should go shut the bypass back down. I was told that they are on river water now as well. But I hate to call chief Mathews to ask.



10:50

LTE



Eric ›

He is why I am asking.

Oh

You have his number?

I l'd like to reduce our flow
by time we hit 15' north

Yeah I talked to him this
morning from the bypass

So we are still losing
ground?

Yeah but slowly

Give him a call. I am about
to leave my parents and
head home.

Ok

Sun Jul 5 at 0:12 PM



Text Message - RCB





Sun, 10:50 AM Eric > 10:50 AM

I just called chief mathews, asked if they could slow down the pull. Operators are panicking, I think we ok but if anything happens we'll be screwed. He felt they probably can do that

I agree we need some time to rebuild supply. I am guessing we hadn't recovered from Friday before this started.

7.5 mgd
18.3 s
17.0 n

We were in decent shape when this all started. Not great but not terrible

I'm going to show the operators what to adjust



Text Message • RCS



10:50

5G



before this sta **Eric**

7.5 mgd
18.3 s
17.0 n

We were in decent shape
when this all started.
Not great but not terrible

I'm going to show the
operators what to adjust
here at east st if they need
to shut all the way down
later

Chief said they are
pumping from the river
already and are working to
set up another river pump

Sounds good

10:51

5G



Mon, Jul 6 at 10:49 AM

Eric

Where we at this morning?

They slowed down pulling from us last night and we gained some back but they called early this morning needing to pull again.

7.8 mg

20.1 s

17.4 n

Thanks

I'm at the hospital getting bloodwork done. Should be in with the hour.

Okay

Mon, Jul 6 at 3:01 PM

8.124

19.5 n

19.0 s



Text Message



10:51

5G



Eric ›

8.124
19.5 n
19.0 s

Slow steady gain

Really slow. They have to be still drawing from the system.

They claim they aren't. I'm certain they were earlier this morning. We've made decent progress until our booster stations kick to fill the other tanks and then it slows or even falls a little

I would feel better if we would gain faster. Hopefully we will gain overnight. When I was in the area after lunch it was obvious they are getting the fire knocked down pretty good.

+

10:51

5G



Eric

Tue, Jan 26 AM

9.504
23.3 n
23.1 s

Good shape

Looking better. How much water do you think was used on fire?

Total usage on Sunday was around 7 million, so I'd estimate between 6-8 mg total. I'll look closer at it by days end and try to provide a more accurate number.

Thanks