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Current Events

Bell 7

Frustration grows as shelves empty and businesses shut following West Virginia chemical spill

On Wednesday January 8, 2014, a 40,000 gallon tank full of the chemical methylcyclohexane located at Freedom Industries in Charlestown had a large leak. About 7,500 gallons of the dangerous chemical flowed into the Elk River. The emergency began Thursday following complaints to West Virginia American Water about a licorice-type odor in the tap water. Starting Sunday, January 12, 2014, the inhabitants of Charlestown have gone 4 days without clean water. Almost everything is closed, including the restaurants and hotels. Residents in nine counties were told to not drink, bathe in, or wash their dishes or clothes with their water, which could only be used for flushing toilets. The order applies to about 300,000 people.  
 This article surprised me a lot. It’s hard to imagine how the people must be living with no water. They barely have enough water to drink, let alone enough to make a hot meal. This is a very important article because this leak has had an effect on 300,000 people’s lives. They have don’t have access to *water*, a very important thing needed to live. We should care about this because of the previously mentioned reasons. It’s hard to imagine living even just 1 day without drinking, bathing in, and making food with water, and the citizens of Charlestown have gone 4 days, and who knows how many more? I have two questions:

* How many more days will the people in Charlestown have to go without water?
* How did this leak happen?