



For Immediate Release

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Statement to the BridgeValley Community and Technical College Community

The Board of Governors of BridgeValley Community and Technical College takes the health and safety of our campus community very seriously. During a regular Board meeting on May 7, 2021, the Board was made aware of issues and concerns related to the South Charleston campus. Immediately and independently, the Board took action and invited in the experts, namely the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WV DEP), which is tasked with enforcing state and federal environmental laws.

On behalf of the WV DEP, Mr. Kenan Cetin, RCRA Corrective Action Project Manager, and Mr. Ross Brittain, Environmental Toxicologist, made a public presentation to the Board during a Special Meeting on May 21, 2021. Reiterating its previously issued [Statement of Basis](#), the WV DEP concluded **“unequivocally” that it is safe for faculty, staff, and students to work and learn at the South Charleston campus and, specifically, Building 2000.**

The DEP made note of a few land use covenants in place at the WV Regional Tech Park, relating to restrictions on residential communities, daycare facilities, and groundwater usage and/or consumption. BridgeValley is not considered a residential community, nor does it operate a daycare facility. Likewise, BridgeValley does not use groundwater as a source for potable water. Instead, the college uses the same safe, public water system as surrounding residential and commercial communities. There is also a covenant requiring any new construction to use a particular vapor intrusion protocol approved by the WV DEP. The college is aware of existing covenants and will consult with WV DEP should we endeavor into any future construction to ensure BridgeValley’s compliance.

Although these covenants do exist, BridgeValley CTC is among an array of impressive tenants at the West Virginia Regional Technology Park, ranging from medical testing facilities to next-generation 3-D printing and manufacturing facilities. Additionally, the United States government is currently building a state-of-the-art, multi-million dollar meteorological facility in the Technology Park.

At this time, we want to assure our students, faculty, staff, and prospective students that BridgeValley is a safe place. We are committed to your health and safety. As such,

BridgeValley leadership will continue to work with the WV DEP and the West Virginia Regional Technology Park to make sure we operate within their guidelines.

The entire presentation by the WV DEP and BVCTC Board Meeting was recorded and can be viewed here: <https://vimeo.com/548415829/2f6f7fe9d2>.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the issues described here, or any other health and safety concerns or questions, please feel free to contact:

- The Office of the President of BridgeValley Community and Technical College – 304.205.6613
- BridgeValley Human Resources - 304.205.6606
- The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection – 304.926.0499
- The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission – 304.558.0669

Sincerely,
Board of Governors, BridgeValley Community & Technical College

For more information about the BVCTC Board of Governors, visit <https://www.bridgevalley.edu/board-governors>. For direct inquiries related to this release, please contact: Ashley Deem [304-389-7187](tel:304-389-7187) or deem.ashley@gmail.com.
