

Roosevelt's. "It was just classes of food, not specific items," Bird said. "We did try to narrow it down, believe me."

Health officials also have an idea who unknowingly carried the bacteria, which led to the contamination. "Obviously after all this time you can't necessarily prove it," Bird said.

Hepatitis A is asymptomatic, which means a person can carry the bacteria without developing symptoms.

People who ate cooked appetizers or pizza didn't become ill, Bird said. Anything heated would've likely killed the bacteria.

Along with burgers, Roosevelt's serves a number of sandwiches. The restaurant was planning to add and delete items from its food menu in the fall. Gmerek

Dr. Carolyn Bird
—County health department

Gmerek declined to comment on lawsuits that have already been filed against Roosevelt's in Oakland

County Circuit Court.

"We intend to continue what we've been doing," he said. "We're going to our customer base and assure them we have a clean facility. This won't happen again."

"It was clean before. It's even cleaner now."

renewal, said SWOCC attorney John Danahy.

The Farmington and Farmington Hills councils could do so during their next meetings, both scheduled for Aug. 16, while Novi could follow suit on Monday, Aug. 23, Donohue said. SWOCC is an advisory board comprised of elected officials from the three cities.

Also during Tuesday's session at Farmington City Hall, Time Warner regional vice president Bob McCann stated that the cable provider "will be requesting and filing for an administrative hearing with an impartial third party, to resolve whatever issues still exist."

But officials from SWOCC and McCann agreed that their respective actions were done to meet deadlines and guidelines pertaining to the federal Formal Renewal Process, and that they still had optimism about the result of the "informal" process.

According to the Federal Cable Act, both the formal and informal renewal process may proceed simultaneously.

SWOCC's Donohue said he believes informal negotiations with Time Warner "will be fruitful."

Bill Hartssock, chairman of SWOCC and Farmington Mayor Pro-Tem, noted that "It is our collective hope that we can move this along."

Concurring was Time Warner's McCann. "We certainly hope... that we aren't going to get to an administrative hearing and that we'll resolve whatever issues that are remaining in relatively short order."

On Wednesday, Hartsock reiterated that Tuesday's meeting was "more form than substance" and that the informal talks would continue.

"Clearly, it is in our best interests, and Time Warner's best interests, to resolve this issue and negotiate a contract on an informal basis," Hartsock said.

It probably would take six-to-12 months to go the formal route. Following the upcoming votes by the three councils, the first task would be to find an unbiased third party and adjudicator to proceed over arbitration.

Beyond that, both sides would need to assemble and present their arguments and wait for a decision.

If informal discussions do yield a favorable result, Hartsock said SWOCC's full board would again make a recommendation to the city councils, to consider approving the contract. At that point, essentially, what the councils are currently deciding would become moot.

While movement toward a contract renewal inches forward, a third party might be trying to squeeze into the picture, however.

Ameritech New Media is expected to emerge soon and make a pitch to all three councils.

*Ameritech wants to come in and talk to all of the councils, Hartsock said.

No matter how proceedings go in the near future, Hartsack insisted that customers won't have to worry about losing their cable provider.

"It's in their (Time Warner's) best economic interests to continue services, with or without a contract," Hartsock said.

Wednesday, Hartsock said some of the sticking points cities have had with Time Warner include financial support of local access programming and Internet access.

Another issue is how the potential of a new cable player in town might impact terms of whatever deal is agreed to with Time Warner.

"We recognize the fact that the technology change is dramatic in this industry and we want to be fair and equitable," Hartsock said. "But at the same time, deal is a deal."

Hartssock said length of a new contract with Time Warner has not yet been put on the table. That issue typically is not discussed until a contract agreement is imminent.

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