



News Update



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Caring today for a healthy tomorrow

January 19, 2018

Update on Groundwater near House Street in Belmont



Legal Action Targets Wolverine
DEQ Update
KCHD PFAS Video Library

MDEQ Sues Wolverine Worldwide - EPA Announces Action

On Jan. 10, 2018 the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) issued a [news release](#) announcing that the agency would seek to recover costs of clean-up efforts related to PFAS in the Belmont area. The state is asking that Wolverine Worldwide (WWW) be ordered to provide long-term solutions for Kent County residents who have been impacted by the company's dumping of contaminated waste.

MDEQ is also requesting that WWW "institute protective measures to mitigate risks to public health, continue environmental investigations, address contamination in ground and surface water and pay for the state's past and future costs associated with enforcement of state clean up laws." The news release from MDEQ was issued just hours prior to another news release from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). The federal agency has issued an administrative order that demands WWW to do further assessment work at the House Street landfill and the former tannery site.

"The order requires additional investigation and characterization of soil, groundwater and river sediment contaminated with hazardous substances including arsenic, chromium, mercury and ammonia," the release states.

The 38 page "[Unilateral Administrative Order for Removal Actions](#)" details what is perhaps the strongest set of regulatory demands that have been placed on the shoe manufacturer so far.



DEQ's Ongoing Residential Well Sampling Efforts in Support of PFAS Investigation

By: Joshua Scheels, Incident Management Specialist
Remediation and Redevelopment Division
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

DEQ staff are working hard to conduct residential well sampling at locations where Wolverine World Wide, Inc. has been unsuccessful in gaining access. The DEQ is actively canvassing to either collect a residential drinking water well sample or make arrangements to return, at a later date, to conduct sample collection activities.

Check out the Kent County Health Department PFAS Video Library

Click on image to view video



KCHD Media Officer answers the most common questions he receives.



KCHD Supervising Epidemiologist discusses the health study that will take place.



MDHHS Toxicologist explains what is known about PFAS.



KCHD Administrative Health Officer talks about the role of KCHD with PFAS.

Resources

Wolverine Worldwide

HouseStreet@wwwinc.com
(616) 866-5627

For information regarding possible health effects of PFAS and PFOA

The Kent County Health Department

616-632-7100
KCPFAS@kentcountymi.gov

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)

1-800-648-6942

For information about the status of the investigation and water sampling

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Environmental Assistance Center via their online form [HERE](#) or call 800-662-9278

For House Street specific site information

Rose and Westra, a Division of GZA

Mark Westra/Lori Powers
<mailto:House-Street@gza.com>
(616) 258-7234

For information about the Plainfield municipal water system

Plainfield Water Department

(616) 363-9660

For questions about tax/property values

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