



News Update

September 22, 2017



HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
Caring today for a healthy tomorrow

Update on Groundwater near House Street in Belmont



Testing Expands
New Website
Message Sent to Physicians
Buyer Beware
PFAS Timeline

Testing to be Performed in Expanded “Buffer Zone”

On Wednesday September 20, Rose and Westra GZA (R&W) the environmental engineering and consulting firm working for Wolverine Worldwide (WWW) informed the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) that a new zone had been established for water testing. According to R&W vice president, Mark Westra, WWW has agreed to pay for the testing of approximately 200 additional homes in the expansion area now known as the “Buffer Zone.” The company is also offering bottled water for those residents. You can view the map of the “Buffer Zone” by [clicking here](#). R&W says the creation of the new zone was done by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) based on public input and further technical analysis.

New Website

KCHD is now offering a website that will allow people to access information regarding the ongoing PFAS and groundwater situation near the House Street Sits. The website, <https://www.accesskent.com/Health/PFAS/belmont.htm>, will contain all of the information, news releases, maps and newsletters that are communicated with residents. In addition to new content, the website will serve as a resource for finding previously communicated information. This website will eventually provide links to the site now under construction by MDHHS and MDEQ. While the KCHD site will hold information from other agencies, its main purpose is to give you access to the public health communications from KCHD.

Clinical Guidance Sent to Area Physicians

On Wednesday September 20, 2017 KCHD sent PFAS Clinical Guidance information to Kent County health care providers. The communication to physicians will provide background information and help prepare doctors and clinicians for questions from people who live in the area. It also provides links to clinical information. If your provider did not receive the information have them contact KCHD or you may provide it to them. You can view that document by clicking [here](#).

Buyer Beware

Several residents are reporting that they have been approached by a person who is offering to test the water in their homes for PFAS. Residents are being told that this company’s “local lab” can return results in 72 hours. These claims are false and should serve as red flags. If someone tries to sell you something based on these claims you should be very wary. (See the next section of this newsletter for more information on independent testing.) The Kent County Health Department strongly recommends that you treat solicitors with a high degree of skepticism. If you suspect that someone is trying to take advantage of you or you feel you have been the victim of a scam, please contact the Kent County Sheriff’s Department (KCSD) at (616) 632-6125. KCSD is aware of the situation and is working with KCHD and MDEQ to find out more.

Independent Testing

There are a number of reasons you may want to finance your own testing. Whether you are seeking a second opinion or your well has not been selected to be tested, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is offering some tips. Be certain that the lab you choose is certified to run EPA “Method 537” which is used for the analysis of PFAS. See the list of EPA approved labs [here](#). Independent testing is very expensive costing between \$750 and \$1000 or more per home. Get written proposals and multiple estimates to ensure value. Do your homework, check the lab with the Better Business Bureau and get references.

Rumors

KCHD received reports of a rumor involving an elementary school. The rumor claimed staff was telling students that the water was contaminated and to bring bottled water to school. KCHD staff investigated the claim and found it to be false. The school mentioned in the rumor is not near the House Street Site. This incident should serve to remind us to be on guard for false information that can spread very quickly. If you have questions about something you have heard please email KCPFAS@kentcountymi.gov.

Next Meeting

Planning for the next meeting is in its early stages. Since these are your meetings, we would like to hear from you. Please give us your opinions about what you liked or didn’t like about the last meeting and suggestions about how we could improve to better suit your needs. Your input will be vital to the success of these meetings as we move forward. Please email KCPFAS@kentcountymi.gov.

A Time Line of Testing and Results

The following is a list provided by the MDEQ that diagrams the number of tests so far and the results.

April /June testing:

Wells tested: 8

Exceedance of PFOA and PFOS (greater the combined 70 ppt): 0

July/August testing:

Wells tested: 29

Exceedance of PFOA and PFOS (greater the combined 70 ppt): 9

September Sampling:

1. Wells tested: 70

Sampling in the study area is now wrapping up, results would be expected in 4 weeks.

The next round of sampling in the "Buffer Zone" will star the week of September 25th.

Questions for Wolverine or Rose and Westra?

The companies have established dedicated email addresses and phone numbers to answer your questions.

Wolverine Worldwide - Phone (616) 866-5627 - email HouseStreet@wwwinc.com

Rose and Westra - (616) 258-7234 - email House-Street@gza.com

In the news - links to news stories you may have missed

9/21 <http://woodtv.com/2017/09/21/contaminated-well-concerns-spawn-possible-kent-co-scam/>

9/13 <http://www.wzzm13.com/news/local/rockford/wolverine-worldwide-well-pollution-response/474300622>

9/12 <http://woodtv.com/2017/09/12/homeowners-seek-answers-about-tainted-water/>

9/11 http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2017/09/wolverine_house_street_well.html

9/8 http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2017/09/belmont_pfas_meeting.html

9/8 <http://fox17online.com/2017/09/08/kent-co-holds-meeting-to-address-potentially-toxic-chemicals-found-in-private-wells/>

9/7 http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2017/09/wolverine_beltline_landfill_pf.html

8/30 <http://fox17online.com/2017/08/30/wolverine-aids-in-testing-contaminated-belmont-tap-water/>

8/30 http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2017/08/wolverine_pfas_house_st_dump.html

8/30 <http://michiganradio.org/post/mdeq-looking-drinking-water-contamination-near-former-dump-site>

8/30 <http://www.wzzm13.com/news/health/chemicals-found-in-drinking-water-near-old-tannery-dump-site/469405480>

Next Newsletter

You will receive this newsletter every Friday. If you have question about the content of this newsletter or if there are things that you would like to see covered please email us at KCPFAS@kentcountymi.gov.

