



News Update

October 6, 2017



HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Caring today for a healthy tomorrow

Update on Groundwater near House Street in Belmont



**MDEQ to Investigate Potential Additional Sites
Tips for Avoiding Scams
Wolverine Worldwide Provides Update**

Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality to Evaluate Reports of Additional Sites

by David O'Donnell - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Over the last few weeks DEQ staff have been taking phone calls from area residents, participating in inter-agency meetings regarding the contamination at House Street, providing oversight of field activities conducted by Rose & Westra GZA on behalf of Wolverine and meeting with R&W-GZA and Wolverine to discuss and plan future response activities at the House & Herrington site.

Some of the phone calls received by the DEQ were generated by media reports of waste from tannery operations being dumped at locations other than House Street. Some of those locations are known and the extent of contamination is defined. Other locations mentioned in the media are based on information made available to the DEQ second or third hand. The DEQ's focus remains on the known groundwater contamination located in the area around House Street NE and Herrington Avenue NE. However, the DEQ intends to evaluate other potential waste disposal locations as resources allow. The DEQ encourages residents with firsthand knowledge of waste disposal locations to contact the district office and provide staff with the information they have so we can evaluate and prioritize the information for further investigation.

Don't get Ripped Off! - tips from the Better Business Bureau about purchasing water filters or testing services.

By Steve Kelso, Kent County Health Department (KCHD)

You have every right to purchase independent well testing, and you may have a number of reasons for shopping for your own filtration system but no one has the right to sell you bogus services or rip you off. It is an unfortunate fact of life that there are scam artists who use people's circumstances as a business opportunity.

"If people would just do a few simple things, we could avoid about 99% of this kind of nonsense," says Phil Catlett, President and CEO of the Grand Rapids Office of the Better Business Bureau (BBB). He offered several tips for homeowners to keep themselves from becoming the victim of a scam. Catlett says it is unwise to rush into any decision about a purchase. He encourages people to take their time and find out about the product and the person selling it. "I would encourage people to check the BBB website to see if there have been complaints about this business or the salesperson," says Catlett, "but I wouldn't stop there." Catlett says taking the time to do a simple Google search is well worth the effort, "If someone has been up to no-good criminally, you may be able to find out about it very easily."

Catlett says it is important to ask the salesperson if there is scientific data that backs up any claims about how the product works and he says to be cautious of someone who can't or won't provide the information.

Catlett says, "If a business has a track record of being able to deliver what they promise, that information can be found on line too. Look for favorable reviews and satisfied customers but be wary if the only good reviews you can find are testimonials on the company's website.

Update Briefs Provided by Wolverine Worldwide

(the following information was submitted to this newsletter by Wolverine Worldwide. It has not been edited from its original form)

1. The additional 70 homes in the Study Area have been sampled in all instances where access has been provided.
2. Almost all of the additional 230 homes in the Buffer Zone have been sampled.
3. Analytical results for these homes are expected to arrive on a periodic basis throughout October and early November.
4. The last of the filters to be installed in the Study Area are scheduled the week of October 9.
5. Removal of debris at the MDOT and Imperial Pine parcels is scheduled to begin the week of October 9.

Resources

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 (616) 258-7234

<mailto:House-Street@gza.com>

For information about the Plainfield municipal water system

Plainfield Water Department

(616) 363-9660

For questions about tax / property values

Plainfield Township Assessing Department

Jeff Miller (616) 726-8880

Wolverine Worldwide

HouseStreet@wwwinc.com

(616) 866-5627

Next Newsletter

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