



News Update



HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Caring today for a healthy tomorrow

November 27, 2017

Update on Groundwater near House Street in Belmont



Governor Forms Task Force Rockford Results are In

PLEASE NOTE—Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday there will be no newsletter Friday November 24, 2017.

Governor Rick Snyder creates action team in response to PFAS

Gov. Rick Snyder announced on Monday the formation of the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team or MPART to ensure a “comprehensive, cohesive and timely response to the continued mitigation of perfluoroalkyl and polufluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) across the Michigan.”

In a news release Snyder’s office says that the team will be tasked with enhancing cooperation and coordination among local, state and federal agencies charged with identifying, communication and addressing the potential effects of PFAS. The team is to be led by retired Michigan Chief Deputy Attorney General Carol Isaacs. Snyder says Isaacs has his authorization to ensure timely action is taken on all environmental, public health and public information fronts.

In addition to Isaacs, the team includes representatives from the Michigan Departments of Environmental Quality; Health and Human Services; Military and Veterans Affairs; and Agriculture and Rural Development. The team will receive additional support from the Michigan Departments of State Police; Natural Resources; Technology, Management and Budget; Treasury; Licensing and Regulatory Affairs; and Education. It also will coordinate with the National Guard Bureau, U.S. Department of Defense, and the appropriate local health departments and government agencies on PFAS contaminant issues.

The state has created a website where the public can find out information about PFAS contamination and the coordinated efforts currently underway to address it in Michigan. The site will be continually updated as additional information becomes available. The website address is <http://michigan.gov/pfasresponse>.

State Says, “No Apparent Public Health Hazard “ in Rockford Schools

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has concluded there is no apparent public health hazard in the water at four Rockford Schools. The conclusion is made based upon the completion of tests after the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) obtained samples from four Rockford Schools. Rockford East Middle School was first tested in October after the discovery of a potential dump site near the facility. Based on evidence from the investigation and sampling results the DEQ concluded that there was not a evidence of PFAS contamination at East Middle.

Canonsburg Elementary, Crestwood Elementary and Lakes Elementary were all tested at the request of Rockford Schools Superintendent Dr. Mike Shibley. On Tuesday November 14, Rockford Schools received the results from those samples. MDHHS reviewed the results and has concluded that no PFAS health risk exists in the water at those schools.

DEQ’s Ongoing Efforts on the PFAS Investigation

*from Joshua Scheels,
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Incident Management Specialist
Remediation and Redevelopment Specialist*

“DEQ continues their efforts to actively investigate known and suspected PFAS impacted locations. DEQ experts continue working towards identifying and eliminating these potentially impacted locations to ensure protection of public health.”

Editors note: DEQ submissions to this newsletter are printed in their entirety and are not edited for content.



Town Hall Meeting Reminder

The next town hall meeting hosted by the Kent County Health Department will take place November 29th at Rockford Public Schools Freshman Center. The one on one sessions for people to meet with representatives from agencies involved in the investigation will now begin at 4:00 P.M. which is one half hour earlier than originally planned. The change was made in order to accommodate as many people as possible. Staff from the involved agencies will remain ready to answer questions privately even once the town hall meeting has started. These meetings were very popular and well received during the first meeting and it is our hope to build upon the success of these sessions.

The town Hall portion of the meeting will be held from 6-9:00 P.M. in the gymnasium. Please let your neighbors and friends know about the meeting. The Freshman Center is located at 4500 Kroes St. NE, Rockford. [MAP](#)

About This Newsletter

This newsletter is a weekly publication of the Kent County Health Department. Unless otherwise stated, all articles are written by KCHD staff. This newsletter will publish weekly as long as the need for timely information regarding the PFAS situation is warranted. Articles written by MDEQ or MDHHS will be accepted and will appear unedited and the authoring agency will be identified. As a courtesy KCHD has agreed to send updates from Wolverine Worldwide to this mailing list. Those mailings will arrive under separate cover to your inbox.

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

Plainfield Township Assessing Department

Jeff Miller (616) 726-8880