



KENT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kent County DPW to Update Residents on Methane Gas Migration

KENTWOOD, MI – The Kent County Department of Public Works (DPW) will provide residents with an update this week on the investigation of methane migration near the Kentwood Landfill.

You may recall that in August, routine testing of the existing methane gas collection system found methane at various depths just west of the landfill site. Buildings closest to the landfill are tested regularly and so far there has been no detection of methane inside these buildings.

DPW brought in a third-party firm (Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber, Inc.) to provide free testing in 150 homes west of the landfill. “To date, seven residents have requested methane testing in their homes; all seven were negative for methane,” said Dar Baas, Kent County DPW Director. “Because conditions can change as residents close their windows this time of year, we are offering return visits to the homes that have been tested. Home owners or renters within 1500-feet of the landfill’s western boundary are still able to request quick, on-site testing for methane at no cost to the homeowner.” *(For residents to arrange testing, call the Kent County DPW at 616.632.7920.)*

An engineering firm, Golder, was hired to investigate the source of the methane, and to design an expansion of the existing methane collection system. The preliminary design for collection is nearly complete, and construction should begin by the end of the year.

DPW will hold a neighborhood meeting on **Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 7 p.m.** at the Kentwood City Hall, 4900 Breton SE. Staff from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Kent County Department of Public Works, the City of Kentwood and Golder Engineering will provide an update on residential testing results and next steps to be taken to collect and flare the methane from the landfill.

Kent County DPW consulted with environmental health experts at the Kent County Health Department regarding the findings. They say methane is non-toxic and dissipates quickly when it is exposed to air, but it can be flammable, specifically when trapped in closed-in spaces.

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