



TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Howard Lazarus, City Administrator
Craig Hupy, Public Services Area Administrator

DATE: December 18, 2018

SUBJECT: Gelman Site Update

Most of the summary below is taken from a quarterly report the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) provides to USEPA. Portions of the report relevant to Ann Arbor and of significant interest to City Council are excerpted below.

Contaminated Water Supplies

In 2018, 67 water supply wells were sampled and no wells showed 1,4-Dioxane levels that exceeded the standard of 7.2 parts per billion (ppb). 2 wells, located on the south side of Elizabeth Rd., showed detectable levels of 1,4-Dioxane at 1-2 ppb. Levels of 1-4 ppb have previously been detected at both locations.

Remediation

Current remediation actions are performed by Gelman Sciences at locations at and around the former Gelman Plant Site. Remediation actions include extraction of contaminated ground water and treatment by ozone and hydrogen peroxide. Gelman extracts 473 gallons of ground water per minute. Between May and September of 2018, Gelman treated 81,407,286 gallons of water and removed 282 pounds of 1,4-Dioxane.

Gelman has installed monitoring wells (MW) to be used only for monitoring and evaluating 1,4-Dioxane levels in ground water at locations surrounding the former plant site. This water is not supplied to the public for any use. Between May and September of 2018, Gelman has sampled 308 locations of these locations. The highest level of 1,4-Dioxane from these MW was detected at 1800 ppb, while other locations had non-detect levels. Gelman plans to use these MW to evaluate their treatment process.

As requested by the MDEQ, Gelman has reviewed their files to identify possible PFAS contaminant sources. They reported no significant use of substances containing PFAS. Additionally, the MDEQ has conducted PFAS testing at locations near the former Gelman Plant site. Results of this sampling will be made public and used to determine if PFAS should be considered a contaminant of concern at the Gelman Site.

Shallow Groundwater Investigation

Gelman conducted a shallow groundwater investigation, within the prohibition zone and in Scio Township. 16 out of the 27 investigated sites contained groundwater within 20 feet of the surface. 2 locations showed detectable levels of 1,4-Dioxane between 1.9 ppb and 3.3 ppb. These concentrations were below the EPA Regional Screening Level (RSL) of 4.6 ppb, set for the combined exposure through the ingestion, dermal contact, and inhalation pathways which is possible through shallow groundwater.

Surface Water Sampling

In September of 2018, the DEQ continued the sampling of surface waters, (e.g. ponds, creeks, and drains) in and around the site and vicinity for 1,4-Dioxane. Of the 18 locations that were sampled, 8 showed detectable levels of 1,4-Dioxane. The results are as follows:

- Allen Creek (Drain) Tributary in the SW corner of West Park – 19 ppb
- Little Lake – 4.1 ppb
- Third Sister Lake – 2.9 ppb
- Unnamed Tributary of Honey Creek at Jackson Rd. – 3.9 ppb
- Unnamed Tributary of Honey Creek at Park Rd. – 3.8 ppb
- Unnamed Tributary of Honey Creek at the Gelman Discharge outfall – 4.9 ppb
- Unnamed Tributary of Honey Creek at the Gelman Discharge outfall (immediately upstream) – 5.2 ppb
- Honey Creek at Dexter Rd – 2.1 ppb

The DEQ expects to meet with the Washtenaw County Water Resources commissioner's office in the next quarter to identify next steps.