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Permits Section  
Water Bureau  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
PO Box 30273  
Lansing, MI 48909



November 7, 2007

Ms. Swart:

The City of Ann Arbor opposes MDEQ granting the NPDES permit MI0058169-AP to allow new discharge to Honey Creek. This letter contains City of Ann Arbor comments on the proposed NPDES permit MI0058169-AP for a proposed 0.2 MGD new use discharge to Honey Creek.

The City of Ann Arbor opposes MDEQ granting this permit for several reasons ranging from bad policy to specific environmental degradation concerns including:

- MDEQ should not grant permits for developments that have not been approved by the township or relevant local government. This is a waste of state employee time and tax dollars.
- Package Wastewater Treatment plants are bad policy that pose significant future risk to the watershed. Permitting these plants places their management in the hands of homeowner associations without appropriate financial securities. This places the burden on the downstream sourcewater users and homeowners and not the Developer.
- Package Wastewater Treatment Plants are bad policy in that they encourage sprawl by allowing dense development outside of areas with existing infrastructure.
- This Package Wastewater Treatment Plant design has been permitted at Thornton Farms in Lima Township and that plant has consistently not complied with its phosphorus limit.
- This new discharge would allow even more phosphorus into a watershed that is already under federal mandates to reduce the phosphorus loading to the Huron River. The recently completed Mary Beth Doyle Park retrofit cost \$2.1 million dollars and reduces phosphorus by over 800 lbs per year.
- This new discharge would allow additional contaminants into Honey Creek, which flows into Barton Pond, the main source of Ann Arbor's drinking water. The City of Ann Arbor has already done preliminary studies on the personal care products found in our sourcewater and this discharge adds more.
- This new discharge adds flows to Honey Creek that would increase flows by an estimated 20-75 percent. Honey Creek is already significantly eroded by the additional 1.8 MGD from the Pall Life Sciences remediation.

As the state is well aware, the city has a long history of being concerned about discharges into Honey Creek upstream of the city's primary water intake at Barton Pond. To date the state has been unresponsive in our concerns about increasing amounts of water and chemicals entering our primary source water. Most recently the MDEQ permitted additional amounts of 1,4 Dioxane and the discharge of a new known carcinogen bromate into Honey Creek for the Pall Life Sciences remediation. Ann Arbor is the sole user of the Huron River as source water and while the quality of water we produce for our residents continues to exceed federal and state standards, we are concerned that MDEQ continues to permit discharges into our sourcewaters.

### Flows to Honey Creek

The petitioner claims new average day, maximum day, and peak hour flows of .200, .350, .746 MGD respectively. The USGS report Ground-water/Surface water Relations along Honey Creek, Washtenaw County 2003 describes characteristics along the stretch east of the proposed discharge site. This report highlights both gaining and losing sections of stream. Streamflow measured at site 15, the site most proximal to the new development in the report in 2003, showed the following flows (see attached table). The petitioners additional flows added to the 2003 data show 20% increases in steady flows, 35% increases in maximum daily flows and 75% increases at peak hour at this point.

This would be in addition to the treated water from the Pall Gelman contamination site.

These waters are treated to reduce 1,4 dioxane levels but adds bromate. This discharge is 1300 gpm or 1,872,000 gallons per day. It is very unlikely that Pall would be able to increase its discharge limit. At what point is this creek at

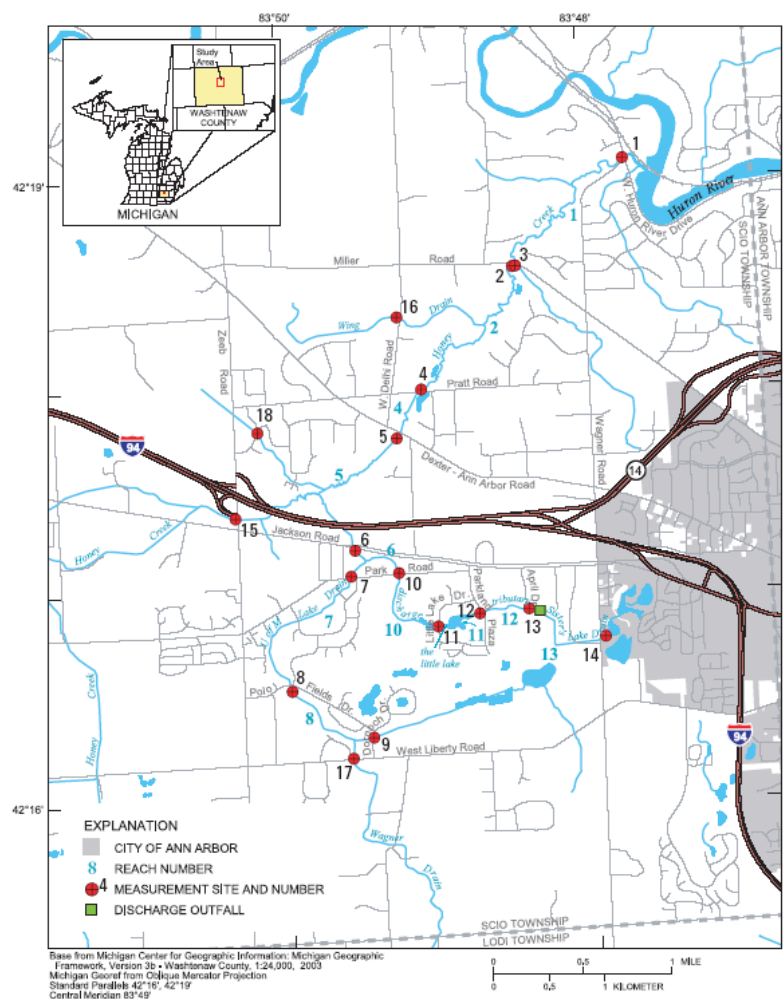


Figure 1. The Honey Creek study area, Washtenaw County, Michigan.

capacity for additional discharges of water and contamination and nutrients – all of which reach the City of Ann Arbor drinking water intake.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if I can provide more information.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Naud". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "Q" at the end.

Matthew Naud  
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	6/18/03	8/20/03	9/10/03
ft3/s	1.55	2.06	1.69
ft3/min	93	123.6	101.4
pd	1000680	1329936	1091064
MGD	1.00068	1.329936	1.091064
Average	0.2	0.2	0.2
New Flow MGD	1.20068	1.529936	1.291064
Percent Increase	19.99%	15.04%	18.33%
Max Day	0.35	0.35	0.35
New Flow MGD	1.35068	1.679936	1.441064
Percent Increase	34.98%	26.32%	32.08%
Peak Hour MGD	0.746	0.746	0.746
New Flow	1.74668	2.075936	1.837064
Percent Increase	74.55%	56.09%	68.37%