



Gelman Plume & 1,4-Dioxane Quarterly Update

February - April 2024

EPA Updates

On March 5, 2024, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to add Gelman Sciences Inc., which spans portions of the city of Ann Arbor and Scio Township in Washtenaw County, Michigan, to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is a list of sites throughout the United States and its territories where historical releases of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants pose significant threats to human health and the environment. “We’re proposing the Gelman site for the Superfund list to ensure that more federal resources are focused on tackling long-standing groundwater contamination in Washtenaw County,” said EPA Region 5 Administrator Debra Shore. “EPA’s robust community involvement program at Superfund sites would also enable us to directly address the concerns of residents and those impacted by the contamination from the facility over many decades.” A 60-day public comment period began on March 7, and will be open through May 6, 2024. The EPA will then provide public responses to all comments. If, after the formal comment period, the site still qualifies for cleanup under Superfund, it is officially listed on the NPL. After listing, further studies will ensue to determine the nature and extent of the contamination and to help identify potential treatment options.

EPA updates regarding the Gelman site are available online [EPA’s website](#) as well as [answers to frequently asked questions](#).

Agency Updates

EGLE - NPDES PERMIT

- The public comment period for the Gelman Sciences draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit closed on February 23, 2024. EGLE will be considering the comments as they draft the final permit.

EGLE / CARD

- CARD meetings were held virtually on February 6, 2024, March 5, 2024, April 2, 2024 (cancelled).
- EGLE provided the following updates:
 - EGLE is currently reviewing the Western Area GSI Work Plan.
 - EGLE is reviewing the work plan for downgradient and Allen Creek Drain GSI Investigations.
 - EGLE responded to Gelman's revised Eastern Area Monitoring Plan and is expecting a revised version of the plan soon.
 - EGLE recently approved a financial assurance mechanism with Gelman. That will be effective as soon as EGLE receives Gelman's letter of credit. This includes an additional ~\$5 million in financial assurance, securing a 10% contingency over previous negotiations. The total assurance is \$55 million, and it is re-evaluated every 3-5 years. This will ensure that unforeseen remedial costs will be covered if Gelman Sciences Inc. dissolves.
- Washtenaw County Health Department will be determining residential well sampling locations in the coming weeks (likely starting in June). They will be sampling all wells that had a detection of 1,4-dioxane previously. Samples will be submitted to the EGLE laboratory for analysis using method 8260 with 0.5 parts per billion (ppb) reporting limit. Results will be sent to homeowners and will be added to the EGLE database.
- Scio Township approved a resolution requesting a Gelman-funded residential monitoring well program. EGLE has denied the request citing the 2014 Cost Recovery Settlement Agreement with Gelman and the Fourth Amended and Restated Consent Judgment.

MS4 Permit

Concentrations of 1,4-dioxane have been entering the Allen Creek Drain (ACD) stormwater system. The ACD system is part of Washtenaw County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). On December 15, 2022, the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commission Office sent a letter to Gelman indicating that action was required to remain in compliance with the County's MS4 permit requirements regarding outstanding issues previously noted. The letter stated that the migration of 1,4-dioxane into ACD must cease or be in compliance with applicable State and County statutes and requirements.

Pall Groundwater Treatment Updates

Total volume of groundwater treated January through March 2024:

75,343,020 gallons

Mass of 1,4 Dioxane Removed:

January: 93.15 lbs

February: 83.56 lbs

March: 85.84 lbs

Total: 262.55 lbs

The mass calculations were determined from the NPDES monthly discharge reports using the maximum daily influent concentration and maximum daily effluent concentrations. The volume was calculated from the average monthly flows in the monthly discharge report.

Next Quarterly Report Due July 2024

- EPA Updates
- EGLE and CARD Updates
- MS4 Permit
- NPDES Permitting Progress

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