



I want to take this opportunity to update you on the status of the Gelman plume litigation and recent information that was shared by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) and the

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during a March 18 community meeting hosted by Washtenaw County and moderated in part by Representative Debbie Dingell. During this virtual meeting Superfund Branch Chief Joan Tanka and Superfund Division Director Doug Ballotti summarized the Superfund Process and timeline and also provided some insight on how the EPA would address the Gelman contamination in Ann Arbor.

Ballotti was very clear and indicated that as a general rule, and as a matter of policy, the EPA will not list a site on the National Priorities List of the Superfund Program when a state is actively involved in leading a clean-up, which is the case with the Gelman site. He also indicated that the Superfund Program is typically utilized for sites where the problem is beyond the capability of the state to manage or address. For these reasons, it would be unusual for the EPA to list a site like Gelman; however, it is not prohibited. In order to initiate this process, the EPA would require a request from Governor Gretchen Whitmer seeking EPA involvement, which has not yet happened.

The timeline of action for a National Priorities Listed site is long and involves many steps. Here is a summary of the multiple steps necessary and an approximated timeframe for each:

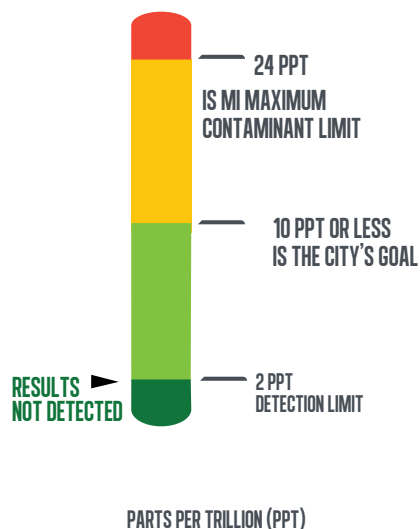
- Preliminary Assessment: 1-2 years
- National Priority Listing: 1 year
- Negotiation with responsible party (Gelman) to agree to conduct a remedial investigation and feasibility study: 1 year
- Gelman conducts the Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study, with EPA oversight: 2-10+ years
- EPA prepares its Record of Decision, which

..... continued on page 2

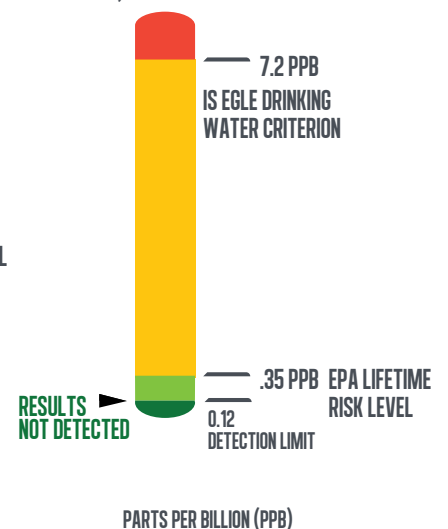
MONTHLY WATER QUALITY DASHBOARD



PFOS/PFOA



1,4-DIOXANE



2020 Water Quality Report

The [2020 Annual Water Quality Report](#) is now available and explains where your drinking water comes from, what is in it and how we keep it safe.



WHAT'S INSIDE:
A Message to Our Customers, page 2
About This Report, page 3
Water Quality Data, page 4-8
Contentions of Concern, page 6-7
Abbreviations and Definitions, page 7
Site Activities, page 11



..... continued from page 1

defines the actions that must be implemented: 1 year

- Negotiation with responsible party (Gelman) to complete EPA's clean-up plan: 1 year
- Gelman performs the Remedial Action, with EPA oversight: 10+ years

By EPA's estimation it would take at least seven years, and more likely over a decade, before Gelman would begin implementing EPA's clean-up plan at this site. EPA also did not indicate that they would apply a different standard of clean up to this site than the one currently in place, and EPA stated it would need further study to determine what standard of clean up would be appropriate. They did indicate that they would work closely with their state partners (EGLE) in this process.

One thing that was made clear during the meeting was that it would be important to have in place an interim solution that allows the clean up to progress before a possible transition to EPA leadership occurs. This was the position taken by both EGLE (Director Liesel Clark) and the State Attorney General's representative (Brian Negele) during the meeting. They both indicated that it is important that a 4th Amendment to the Consent Judgment be enacted to ensure the clean-up progresses while the pathway to EPA involvement is evaluated. Although Negele stated the State of Michigan and Gelman have reached agreement on a 4th Amendment to the Consent Judgment, and that the litigation intervenors (City of Ann Arbor, Scio Township, and Washtenaw County and its health department) represent the current barrier to its acceptance, draft of that agreement has not been shared with the intervenors or made public.

Note that this meeting was recorded and can be accessed [online](#) if you are interested in watching it in its entirety.

On a separate track, on March 22, 2021, the Washtenaw County Circuit Court denied Gelman's motion for reconsideration of the Scheduling Order that had set a hearing in the case, and a new hearing is set for May 3-5, 2021. The purpose of the May hearing will be for the intervenors, the State, and Gelman to provide legal and scientific support for what they believe should be revisions to the Consent Judgment currently in place and part of an order governing remediation requirements and actions going forward. After this hearing, the court would rule on what that order would include. As more information becomes available on this process, I will continue to keep you updated.

Be well.

Brian Steglitz

Brian Steglitz, P.E., Drinking Water License F-1, Water Treatment Plant Manager, Ann Arbor resident

APRIL WATER CHAMPION

Customer Service Supervisor, **Crystal Allen** has been selected as April's Water Champion for her continued dedication to successfully managing the city's customer service team.

Whether it's a question about water bills or meter replacement, Crystal approaches every request with kindness and professionalism. This past year has been challenging for all, but our customers are in good hands knowing Crystal and her team continue to be only a phone call away. We appreciate Crystal's dedication to customer service excellence during this pandemic and beyond.



Public Works gears up for spring flushing

Public Works crews will begin annual fire hydrant flushing in mid-April. Flushing is performed each spring to remove accumulation of minerals in the water pipes and to check water pressures throughout the system. Once the program begins, residents will be able to view a map that shows where crews have flushed and where they will flush next. The map will be available at www.a2gov.org/publicworks.

On occasion, during spring hydrant flushing, the water in the areas of flushing may temporarily be discolored. The hydrant flushing can disturb iron sediment in the water pipes and cause the discoloration. The water is safe to drink, but it is unsightly. If you have discolored water, you can run your cold water taps for several minutes to clear your lines. It is best to select a tap close to your water meter. You should

also flush your toilets once or twice. The water should run clear within a few minutes but may last until the evening when hydrant flushing stops and more people are home to move the rusty water out of the system.

