



Looks like winter may have finally arrived. In addition to the cold and snow that might stick around, there were two milestone water-related meetings that occurred in January. The first was hosted by the Department of the Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) at Washtenaw Community College and was attended by more than 150 people. The meeting opened with EGLE presenting a summary of their proposed PFAS regulations for drinking water, which was then followed by a discussion of the rulemaking process. After this summary, the public hearing portion of the meeting commenced.

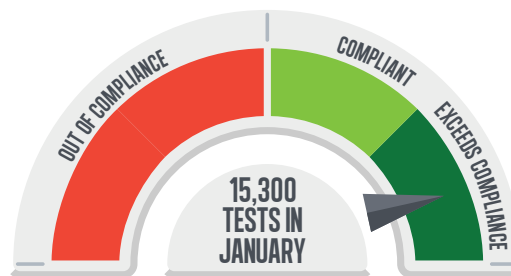
During the public comment, community members who signed up prior were given three minutes to share feedback on the proposed PFAS standards. While there were a few comments recommending more stringent standards, the overwhelming majority of comments focused on removing these harmful chemicals from the environment. City staff concur with public sentiment to focus efforts on removing PFAS chemicals from watersheds that are used for drinking water and on eliminating these chemicals at the source to prevent them from entering the watershed. Fortunately, the city has established drinking water quality goals that remain lower than the proposed regulations in order to continue to provide high quality and safe water to our customers.

The second meeting was hosted by Representative Debbie Dingell to discuss options for remediating the 1,4 dioxane-contaminated groundwater in Scio Township and the City of Ann Arbor, commonly known as the Gelman Plume. Representative Dingell was joined by representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State of Michigan (EGLE and the Attorney General's office). In attendance were elected officials from Scio Township, Ann Arbor Township, Washtenaw County, and the City of Ann Arbor. After brief introductions, representatives from EGLE, the Attorney General's office and EPA responded to questions first posed by the elected officials and then from the general public. Representative Dingell has been attempting, for more than a year, to get elected officials to unify around seeking EPA involvement in abating the groundwater contamination caused by Gelman.

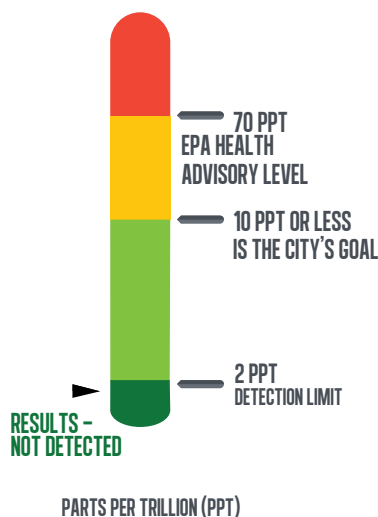
Concurrently with these efforts, the City of Ann Arbor, Scio Township and the Huron River Watershed Council

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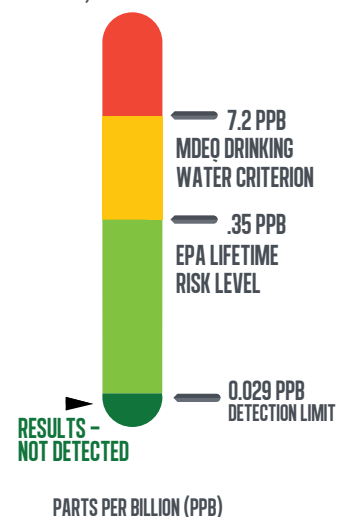
MONTHLY WATER QUALITY DASHBOARD



PFOS/PFOA



1,4-DIOXANE



Ann Arbor Water Treatment Plant Staff

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have intervened in the State of Michigan's lawsuit with Gelman to modify the current Consent Judgment that governs the current cleanup efforts.

There were some important takeaways from the meeting that are worth sharing. First, the EPA made it clear that listing this site on the National Priorities List (NPL) under the Superfund Program would be a last resort and only considered if the State of Michigan determined it was not able to manage the cleanup. Given that both the EPA and EGLE have indicated that they don't believe that there are any imminent public health threats, EPA listing of this site is unlikely.

The other takeaway worth sharing is the timeline for projects considered for the NPL. EPA shared that listing would take a minimum of four years, followed by a remedial investigation that could take anywhere from three to 15 years. After the investigation is complete, a design is completed followed by a negotiation with the responsible party to construct the recommended remedial technology. All in all, it could take between 10 to 12 years before any actual groundbreaking work occurs if EPA decides to list the site. In addition, legal challenges by the responsible party could delay this already lengthy schedule.

In the coming months, I will continue to participate in these discussions and inform our customers of important updates.

Brian Steglitz

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

DID YOU KNOW?

You may have seen a report recently from the Environmental Working Group regarding annual PFAS test results from cities throughout the US. Did you know we provide PFAS test result data monthly?

We WANT you to have access to this information. Check out the facts straight from the source at www.a2gov.org/PFAS. In addition to data, the city also provides updates on all things PFAS on this page with answers to frequently asked questions and fact sheets.

FEBRUARY WATER RELATED EVENTS

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 5-6:30 p.m. at the NEW Center, 1100 North Main Street, Ann Arbor.



Join the Huron River Watershed Council for a PFAS science and policy update from the National Wildlife Federation. NWF staff attorney Oday Salim will share findings from a recent study. Free and open to the public.

FEBRUARY WATER CHAMPION

Janet Kahan leads volunteers with the Huron River Watershed Council and Ann Arbor Public Schools to teach Ann Arbor students the importance of water quality, how to conduct water quality testing, and what they can do to protect the environment.



Janet Kahan, volunteer with the Huron River Watershed Council

“BEING OUTDOORS, TEACHING STUDENTS IS DELIGHTFUL. AND I LOVE THE OTHER VOLUNTEERS. THEY ARE SMART, KNOWLEDGEABLE, KIND AND DEDICATED. WHO WOULDN'T WANT TO ENJOY SOME TIME OUTSIDE WITH ALL OF THEM,” SAID KAHAN.

We believe her thoughts are reflective of her own strengths. Next time you see a group of kids wearing waders in a local park or stream, you'll know they're in good hands with Janet!

To volunteer with or learn more about HRWC's streamside education program, go to www.hrwc.org.