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Quality Water Matters

Brought to you by the City of Ann Arbor
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Let me be one of the first to wish City of Ann Arbor water customers a Happy New Year!

There has been much progress on many fronts regarding the protection and maintenance of the city's drinking water system during the past year and I want to take this opportunity to recap some of the highlights.

The city completed over \$11,000,000 in capital improvements to replace some of its aging infrastructure, both at the water treatment plant and throughout the distribution system. City staff were successful in communicating with customers both face-to-face, through our new Quality Water Matters newsletter, and through social media and our website. Through attending neighborhood and local organizational meetings, and through water treatment plant tours, we engaged with over 2,000 customers. The city's drinking water continues to exceed all State and Federal drinking water requirements, and Ann Arbor continues to be a leader in its response to emerging drinking water contaminants.

PFAS

Related to PFAS, the city replaced all of the carbon in its filters this past year with a new product that is more effective at removing PFAS. Carbon filters have been successful and the city has had non-detectable levels of PFOS and PFOA since July 2019. Total PFAS levels have been generally ranging between 10 and 30 parts per trillion for all of 2019. Levels have been

and remain lower than EPA's health-based criteria as well as all existing and proposed regulatory levels in the United States. You can see all of the city's current and past testing data on our website at www.QualityWaterMatters.org.

Water Regulations

On the regulatory front, the State of Michigan is proceeding with the process to develop maximum contaminant levels for seven different PFAS. There are several steps in this regulatory process, the first being a review by the Environmental Rules Review Committee. This committee has met and will report their recommendations back to the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's Director and to the Governor. In addition, there will be several hearings on this proposed regulation throughout the state. One of these hearings will be hosted at Washtenaw Community College on January 14, and is open to the public. As this regulatory process advances, I will continue to provide updates as part of future Quality Water Matters issues.

Disinfection

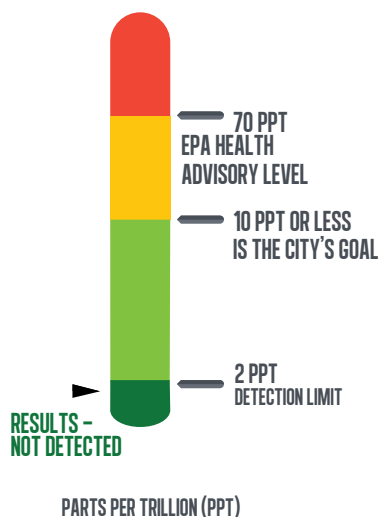
The city has broken ground on the installation of a new ultraviolet light disinfection process that is scheduled to be commissioned later this year. This additional disinfection process will enable the city to more effectively remove Cryptosporidium from its source water as well as provide additional disinfection to address other microbial contaminants.

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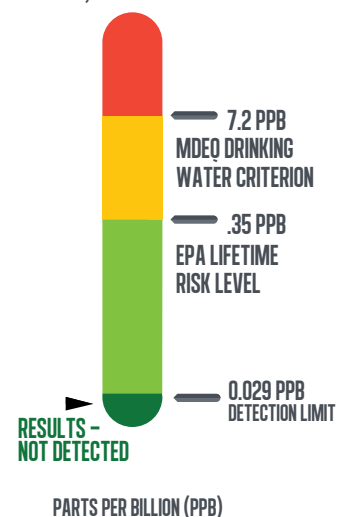
MONTHLY WATER QUALITY DASHBOARD



PFOS/PFOA



1,4-DIOXANE





Water Meter Replacements

The city will commence a multi-year project to replace all residential water meters and at the same time will be completing an inventory to identify any remaining galvanized service lines that serve these properties. This is the first stage in a process to remove remaining galvanized service lines to comply with the State of Michigan’s Revised Lead and Copper Rule.

1,4-Dioxane

Finally, the city continues to work with its community partners to develop solutions to address the Gelman plume. On Dec. 12, the Ann Arbor City Council, Scio Township Board, and Washtenaw County Commissioners met together to discuss the status of confidential negotiations between the parties and Gelman to address concerns about the migration and remediation of the plume. While no final decision was made on next steps, the group agreed to meet again on Jan. 16 at an event hosted by Representative Dingell to discuss alternatives. The Environmental Protection Agency was invited to attend this meeting and share their perspective.

Concurrent with legal negotiations, the city has completed an assessment to determine the location of new monitoring wells that it proposes to install north of the plume. These new wells will be used as part of an early warning system to detect 1,4-Dioxane if it migrates toward the city’s water supply at Barton Pond. Staff will be presenting options to City Council for their consideration early in 2020. Recommended monitoring well locations and a project timeline is available at www.QualityWaterMatters.org.

Again, Happy New Year and I look forward to continuing to keep you updated on drinking water issues throughout the coming year.

Brian Steglitz

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

JANUARY WATER RELATED EVENTS



Tuesday, Jan. 14, 5 p.m.

EGLE PFAS Drinking Water Limit Public Hearing
Washtenaw Community College, Towsley Auditorium,
4800 E. Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor

The Michigan Department, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) is holding three public hearings on its plans to regulate PFAS chemicals in drinking water. The standards would establish sampling, public notification and laboratory certification requirements for public suppliers that serve more than 25 people.

Thursday, Jan. 16, 6:30 p.m.

Dioxane Public Meeting, Washtenaw County Resource Center,
4135 Washtenaw Ave.

United States Representative Debbie Dingell, D-Dearborn, announced plans to bring local officials together with the state attorney general and representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy.

HURON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

PFAS confirmed at former Chrysler facility along the Huron River

By Daniel Brown, HRWC

PFAS chemicals have been confirmed at concerning levels at a former Chrysler manufacturing facility along the Huron River in Scio Township. The site is an active hazardous waste cleanup site that was already under scrutiny. Given the facility was once used for metal plating, a common culprit for PFAS use, the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) and others suspected the site of contamination.

Additional testing conducted since last spring has revealed high PFAS levels in the groundwater at the site. One test indicated very high levels—1700 parts per trillion (ppt)—but that test result may not be representative of the magnitude of contamination. Other test results were elevated but much lower, and more testing will be required to understand the extent of the problem.

The facility is on the river and we now know PFAS are making their way from the groundwater to the river at levels above the state-allowed threshold of 11 parts per trillion (ppt). That’s concerning because the contamination is entering the river upstream of the drinking water intake for Ann Arbor at Barton Pond, but it’s unclear if contamination from the site is affecting PFAS levels at the intake. Total PFAS levels in Barton have slightly increased through 2019, but PFOS and PFOA levels, the two chemicals in question here, have remained low after filters were installed at a major contamination source to the river in Wixom.

Residents concerned about PFAS contamination in their wells and that want support from the state should contact the Washtenaw County Health Department. For residents that want to pursue testing immediately, the state’s MPART website provides guidance. Because the level of contamination exceeded the 11 ppt threshold, EGLE will take further monitoring and remediation actions. This location is classified as a (Part 111) hazardous waste site, which gives the state greater enforcement authority compared to other (Part 201) contaminated locations in the watershed.

For more information on PFAS in the Huron River watershed, visit www.hrwc.org/pfas.