

## KALAMAZOO COUNTY HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Promoting Health For All

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**Environmental Health** 

## Goodwill Company / Meijer Groundwater Restricted Zone (GRZ) City of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County, MI

On November 6, 2012, Horizon Environmental (on behalf of Meijer Realty Company) submitted an application to establish a GRZ pursuant to the Kalamazoo County Sanitary Code. During their February 18, 2014 regular meeting, the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners approved the establishment of the GRZ for the Goodwill Company / Meijer property. In general, the GRZ is bounded by Douglas Street on the west, Cadillac Street on the south, Hawley Street on the east and the southern edge of the Christian Life Center parking lot on the north. The GRZ affects approximately 55 properties within the City of Kalamazoo (see attached map). For a complete list of parcels impacted and a detailed legal description, refer to the Kalamazoo County Sanitary Code.

Groundwater in the GRZ contains gasoline-related contaminants in concentrations exceeding residential drinking water criteria developed by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). The sources of these contaminants are underground storage tanks at two (2) gas station locations near Douglas and Alamo Avenue. The gas station on the northeast corner of this intersection was closed in 1976. Based on the nature and extent of the ground water impact and the number of affected properties, the MDEQ generally agrees that the most technically and economically feasible closure scenario would rely on the creation of a GRZ to **restrict water well installation** in the impacted area.

Because the contaminants in the groundwater are present at concentrations above health-based residential drinking water criteria, the groundwater in the GRZ should not be used for drinking water. The properties within the GRZ have been provided with municipal water service since the 1930's. Therefore, residents have not been exposed to the impacted groundwater through their drinking water. Furthermore, groundwater quality will continue to be monitored to confirm that the contaminant plume is stable or shrinking due to natural attenuation and the delineation of the GRZ is sufficient. In the event that groundwater monitoring shows that the plume is expanding, the MDEQ and County would be notified accordingly.

Monitoring of the groundwater has demonstrated that the contaminant plume is stable (meaning that it is not anticipated to migrate beyond the GRZ). For more information, please contact Kalamazoo County Environmental Health at 269-373-5210.

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