



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
January 30, 2020

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## **January 30, 2020: Update on Kalamazoo County Water Quality**

KALAMAZOO, MI — A news release will be sent on Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. with the latest information surrounding all water quality related activities occurring within Kalamazoo County as information becomes available. Residents can also follow [www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyHCS/](https://www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyHCS/) or visit [www.kalcounty.com/hcs/pfasresponse.php](http://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/pfasresponse.php).

### **City of Portage**

On January 24, The City of Portage, Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department (HCS) and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) announced via a press release that there is PFAS contamination in Kalamazoo County at the Portage Former Landfill and transfer station in the City of Portage, located at 9010 South Westnedge Avenue. A copy of that press release, including a map and chart with the results of the soil and groundwater samples can be found at:

<http://www.portagemi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2421/PFAS-Found-at-Former-Landfill-in-Portage---January-24-2020>.

A consultant for the City of Portage collected soil and groundwater samples beginning in April 2019 as part of a site investigation into the former landfill. The highest concentrations of PFAS were detected in the southwest portion of the site where it is believed that the transfer stations for the former landfill was situated. Beginning in the early 90s, this location was a Fire Training Facility. There are no known records related to how often training occurred at the training facility, or if Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) was used at the facility. AFFF is highly effective foam used for fighting high-hazard flammable, liquid fires.

Groundwater flow in the area is documented to be to the north according to ongoing investigations related to a volatile organic compound and metals release from former city landfill. Based on that information, three water wells located northwest of the site have been determined to be down gradient from the contamination. Since being involved in the investigation, Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department (HCS) determined that there are an additional 25 residential water wells located within close proximity and south of the site, opposite of the direction of groundwater flow. HCS has provided site investigation information to those that are reliant on private water wells and was able to work with the City of Portage to get the 25 residential water wells tested for PFAS, out of an abundance of caution for those residents. HCS is awaiting residential well sampling results prior to advising residents regarding consumption of their well water.

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**HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

311 East Alcott Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001

[www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyHCS/](https://www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyHCS/) | [www.kalcounty.com/hcs](http://www.kalcounty.com/hcs)

The City of Portage, EGLE and HCS are discussing the logistics for holding a town hall meeting during the week of February 10 where test results and potential next steps will be discussed. For more information on this site, information is available on the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) website here:

[https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/0,9038,7-365-86511\\_95645-517163--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/0,9038,7-365-86511_95645-517163--,00.html)

### **Parchment/Cooper Township:**

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy continues to oversee the investigation work, at the former Crown Vantage properties, that is being completed by Georgia Pacific. Georgia Pacific and their consultant, Tetra Tech are currently verifying the analytical results and working on preparing a report that summarizes the investigation activities.

You can read updates as well as the Hydrogeologic Investigation Report Executive Summary on the State of Michigan PFAS response web page located at [https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/0,9038,7-365-86511\\_82704-479889--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/0,9038,7-365-86511_82704-479889--,00.html)

- The full report is 1,501 pages long. Contact EGLE if you wish to view the full report.

Kalamazoo County has created a listserv that will be used to disseminate PFAS updates, newsletters and routine communications to you instantly via email. If you would like to subscribe to this listserv please go to:

<http://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/groundwater-listserv.htm>

### **Richland:**

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy continues to complete investigation activities related to the former Production Plated Plastics facility. Incremental sampling methodology (ISM) soil sampling of the farm fields, which have historically being irrigated with PFAS contaminated surface water, is currently being planned. The implementation schedule of the ISM sampling will be dependent of the approval of the contract and weather conditions. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) continues to oversee the processing and analyzing of the recently collected crop and feed samples. MDARD will continue to work with the USDA and FDA in this process.

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Kalamazoo County Government  
Health & Community Services Department

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