



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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August 15, 2018: Daily Update on the Parchment Water Response

KALAMAZOO, MI— The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department will provide a news release each day at 4:00 p.m. for the community with the latest information, and report on the daily activities surrounding the Parchment Water Response.

Municipal Water Testing Update

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) continue to test and analyze the water flowing through the Parchment municipal water system. Many questions have come up regarding the timeline for the Do Not Drink order to be lifted and the quality of City of Kalamazoo water.

The City of Kalamazoo Public Services is entering the third week of providing support for the City of Parchment's water supply system. The emergency response work was initially focused on flushing out PFOS/PFOA contamination. The City of Kalamazoo's Public Services is now focused on water quality chemistry and ensuring compliance with a source water change and permanent construction. The MDEQ, MDHHS, and the City of Kalamazoo, out of an abundance of caution, are working to collect data, analyze and study water quality for all parameters. Current data trends are looking very positive and continued testing, data collection and analysis are ongoing with a focus on protecting public health.

The City of Kalamazoo Public Services has also provided support through the construction of installing three permanent water stations. Construction is currently on schedule with one station operational, the second station set to become operational next week, and the third station set for the construction phase to begin next week. Additional site restoration and street restoration will take place at a later date to meet property owner and Road Commission of Kalamazoo County standards.

While good progress is being made, the Do Not Drink order remains in place for Parchment and Cooper Township homes and businesses connected to the municipal water system. The next round of testing results is due to be completed and analyzed on Monday, Aug. 20. Further updates will be provided next week regarding

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testing results, as well as information on when the Do Not Drink order could be lifted for Parchment and Cooper Township municipal water customers.

Private Residential Water Wells Testing Update

To date, the MDEQ has collected samples from 115 private residential wells and has received 102 of the sample results. Results from the private residential water wells will not be released to the public to protect the privacy of those residents. The primary focus of the emergency response team and MDEQ is to provide residents who may be affected with PFAS in their private residential water well with information, sample test results and next steps. Resources are being directed to this effort first. A request has been made for the development of additional items that could be released to the public. MDEQ is working on that request now, and it is anticipated that the information will be available as early as next week.

Water Distribution

Water Distribution times will continue this week from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Parchment High School. Residents are asked to verify their address when they pick-up their water supply. On-site recycling at Parchment High School is available for residents to return used water bottles.

The Water Distribution site will be relocating this week due to preparations for the start of school. Once the new Water Distribution site is confirmed, an update will be provided with the address and hours of operations.

On 08/14/18 1,093 cases of water were distributed.

Parchment Water Hotline (269-373-5346)

The Parchment Water Hotline has transitioned to weekday hours only from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

On Tuesday, August 14, the Parchment Water Hotline responded to 46 calls with an average of 5 calls an hour.

Media Inquires

All media inquiries should be sent to the State Emergency Operations Center's Public Information Officer at MSP-SEOCPIO@michigan.gov. Transitioning to this centralized email address will allow for the appropriate entity to respond to media questions promptly.

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Health & Community Services Department



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