



Many of you may have seen the news in early February that there was a security breach at a water system in Florida. An unknown party was able to access the computer control systems for the utility and change the

dosage of one of the chemicals used for water treatment, sodium hydroxide or lye. The dosage was increased by a factor of 100. If gone unnoticed, this change would have created a serious water quality problem and jeopardized water customers' public health. As you can imagine, this unsettling news quickly spread through the water utility world. Since then, many water utilities have spent time identifying gaps in their cyber security defenses to prevent such an event happening at their own utility.

At the utility in Florida, this chemical dosage change was quickly noticed by a system operator and immediately corrected resulting in no risk to its customers. Many have asked about the risk of a similar event occurring in Ann Arbor. Water treatment plant staff work closely with the city's information technology unit to ensure robust security systems are in place to protect the control system. The city provides cyber security awareness training to all employees and performs regular phishing campaigns to recognize and mitigate malicious activity. The water system is monitored 24-7, 365 days per year by a minimum of two operators. These staff continually monitor the computer controls as well as conduct more than 15,000 discrete water quality tests per month to ensure the safety and quality of the water delivered to customers. While one can never say that this can't happen to us, the city takes cyber security very seriously and through training and abundant water quality testing, we make every attempt to minimize cyber security risk.

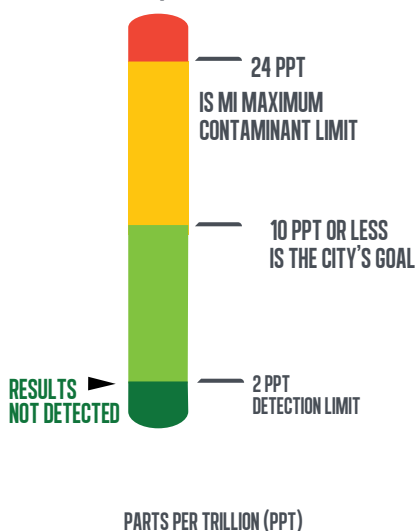
In other water quality news, if you are interested in updates on the German plume litigation, I encourage you to review the [4th quarter City Council Gelman Plume Update](#). The two-page

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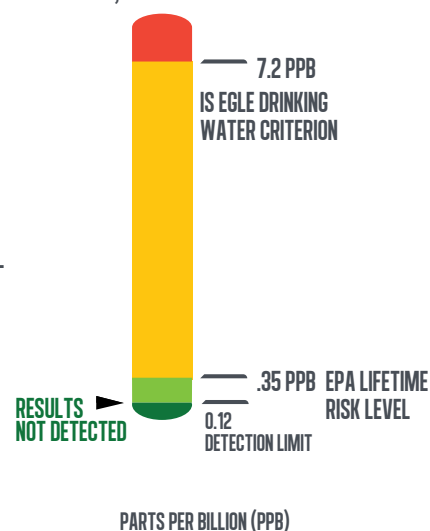
### MONTHLY WATER QUALITY DASHBOARD



#### PFOS/PFOA



#### 1,4-DIOXANE



### 2021 Huron River Day Every Day

The Huron River will be celebrated every day with fun exhibits, hikes and activities up and down trails and parks on the river. Due to the pandemic, there will not be a one-day Huron River Day, but instead there will be activities throughout the 2021 spring and summer season.



Look for information on how to participate in the [Huron River Day](#) fun beginning in May.

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newsletter, similar to this monthly water quality update, provides a quarterly review of activities that have occurred related to the cleanup and litigation, as well as a look ahead.

Be well.

*Brian Steglitz*

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

The graphic features a blue background with several circular icons: a globe with a thermometer, a stonefly, a canoe, and a line graph. The text reads "River Givers MARCH 2021" and "TED-style river talks in a virtual 3D gathering space." The Huron River Watershed Council logo is in the bottom left, and a laptop icon with a person kayaking is in the bottom right. A green banner at the bottom says "For more information, visit [hrwc.org/rivergivers](http://hrwc.org/rivergivers)."

## March River Givers 3D Virtual Event

Celebrate the river with the Huron River Watershed Council. The public is invited to HRWC's 3D virtual learning environment for four TED-style presentations. Every Thursday in March, a short (15-minute) snap-talk about the Huron River and efforts to protect and restore it will post to HRWC's River Givers gathering place. Watch on-demand for the rest of the month!



- March 4: *Rejuvenation, Revitalization and Stewardship Along the Huron River Water Trail*, Daniel A. Brown, Watershed Planner.
- March 11: *Insects Tell A Story: What we learn from Stonefly Search and River Roundups*, Paul Steen, Watershed Ecologist.
- March 18: *Climate Change and the Huron: What we Stand to Lose and how we Win*, Rebecca Esselman, Executive Director.
- March 25: *What is a Healthy River?*, Ric Lawson, Watershed Planner.

Tour the 3D space to learn about the Huron River through photos, videos, maps and more! For more information, visit [www.hrwc.org/rivergivers](http://www.hrwc.org/rivergivers).

## MARCH WATER CHAMPION



Systems Planning Engineer **Troy Baughman** has been selected as March's Water Champion for his tireless work managing the city's meter replacement project. Troy credits multiple staff members with helping him to move this multi-year project forward, which includes the replacement of 26,000 residential water meters while also 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](#). As the project manager, Troy has been instrumental in leading this important project while also reviewing and implementing necessary changes to the timing of the program due to the pandemic.

We appreciate Troy's dedication to public service and delivering quality water to our customers.