A²H₂O Quality Water Matters

Brought to you by the City of Ann Arbor

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On Aug. 1, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) hosted a utility stakeholder group to support their regulatory development process for PFAS. I was able to participate in this work group representing the City of Ann Arbor, and was able to share our concerns on how this group of chemicals may be regulated by the state in the future, while the science and health effects are still being developed and studied. EGLE was very receptive to receiving feedback and will be sharing a draft regulatory framework for comment over the coming months.

Utility stakeholder group meeting.

This month, I would like to focus on a different topic, Michigan's new Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). The updated 2018 LCR requires communities to locate and prioritize lead pipes for removal and decreases the action limit for lead in drinking water. Recently, the state launched a public awareness campaign regarding some of these changes, so I wanted to highlight the city's plan to address the new requirements in three specific areas: lead and copper sampling, service line inventory, and service line replacement.

Sampling

Ann Arbor is well positioned to implement recent changes to the LCR because we are one of the communities who have been consistently below the regulated action levels. Because of our consistently low levels, the city is on a three-year monitoring cycle. Next summer (2020) is the city's scheduled sampling for lead and copper. If you are interested in seeing our 2017 results, you can find them in the city's annual drinking water quality report.

Service Line Inventory

Currently, Public Works staff is working to complete a preliminary water service line inventory by December 2019. This involves reviewing historical records for information on water service line material and any changes that have been made since initial installation. Per the new LCR, the city must verify our inventory results by 2025. However, the city has set a more aggressive goal to complete this work by 2022. The city intends to use its upcoming residential water meter replacement project to verify the inventory results. As part of this

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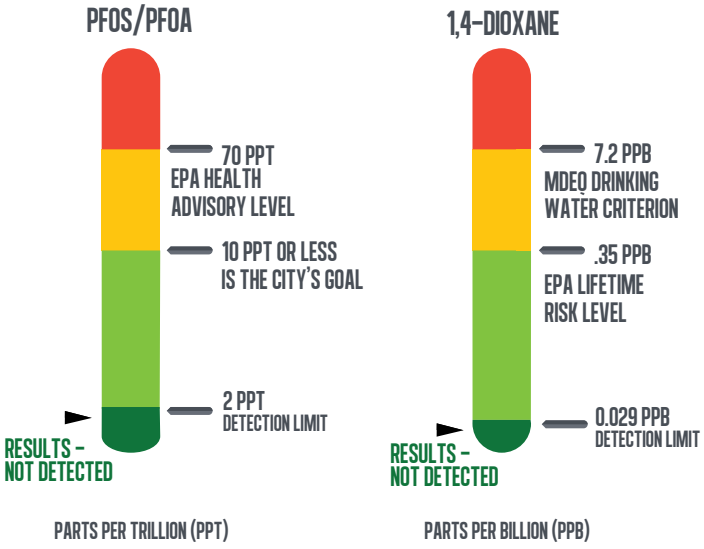
MONTHLY WATER QUALITY DASHBOARD



Did you know:

Good news! The City of Ann Arbor was awarded a $1.3 million grant from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy to assist us in our PFAS removal efforts. This grant will be used to pay for replacing the granular activated carbon in the city's filters, replacing valves and flow meters necessary to accommodate the new granular activated carbon, and water sample analyses.

Did you know the City of Ann Arbor Fire Department transitioned to a PFAS-free firefighting foam usage in 2018.

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project, the city's water meter replacement contractor will have scheduled access inside customer's homes and businesses and will be able to verify the service line material of construction. You will receive more information about the city's meter replacement program directly to your home in the coming months from the city's Public Works Department.

Service Line Replacement
Lead line replacement for residential service lines must begin in 2021 prior to the lead inventory verification deadline. In 2021, the city must begin to replace 5% of identified lead service lines per year. Lead service lines include those galvanized service lines that are or were connected to lead.

Currently, the city's Public Works Department is working to complete our preliminary lead inventory for residential service lines, so we do not have a replacement plan identified yet. Part of this plan will include coordinating lead line replacements with water main and road projects to minimize service disruptions. We also will be discussing how to prioritize replacement of at-risk lines that have been identified in homes due to test samples. More information about our planning efforts will be communicated as we progress.

Brian Steglitz

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

HURON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

Water champions
This year, 29 superb college and master's level students joined the Huron River Watershed Council as interns, working alongside staff and other volunteers to accomplish some of our most critical river protection and restoration work. We strive to give each a meaningful professional experience that will inform their education and career choices going forward. Most of the students participated in our Aquatic Field Internship Program. Focusing on assessing and measuring local streambank erosion, they collected data to update the watershed management plan for the Ann Arbor area. They also worked to educate Scio Township residents on the presence of a newly found invasive plant called stiltgrass, taught K-12 students as part of HRWC's STEM-focused streamside education program, coordinated our youth snorkeling program, deployed a pilot microplastics monitoring project, maintained local green infrastructure, and engaged the public on behalf of HRWC.

We are so grateful for the contribution of these water champions! Visit www.hrwrc.org/about/staff/jobs for more information about positions.

WASHTENAW COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

What are harmful algal blooms?
Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, are a natural part of lakes, rivers and ponds. Some species can produce toxins, called cyanotoxins, that can make humans and animals sick. When conditions are right, these organisms can rapidly increase to form cyanobacteria blooms, or HABs.

What does a harmful algal bloom look like?
Not all algal blooms contain toxins, but it is difficult to tell by looking at a bloom whether it is harmful. Also, the amount of toxins in a bloom can change over time. HABs can be a variety of colors such as blue, green, blue-green, brown, white, purple or red. HABs can look like scum in the water that may have small flecks, foams or globs.

What are the health effects on people?
Skin contact with water containing cyanobacteria may cause irritation such as rashes, hives or skin blisters. It may also cause runny eyes and noses or asthma-like symptoms. Thoroughly rinse off with fresh water if the skin comes into contact with an algal bloom. Swallowing large amounts of water containing cyanotoxins while swimming, wading or playing in the water may cause flu-like symptoms, gastrointestinal illness or neurotoxic symptoms. Recreational water sports like boating and jet skiing may create water spray into the air that can produce an aerosolized toxin (from tiny droplets in the air) if HABs are in the water.

If you suspect you have had contact with or swallowed water containing cyanotoxins, and experience any of the symptoms listed above, consult your health care provider and/or call Poison Control at 800.222.1222. If symptoms are severe, seek emergency medical attention as soon as possible.

What are the health effects on pets or livestock?
If you see a bloom, do not allow your pets or livestock to come into contact with it – especially dogs. Dogs are more likely than humans to drink the water and can swallow a lot of water for their size. When they groom themselves, dogs can potentially swallow cyanotoxins collected in their fur. Symptoms of illness from cyanotoxins often appear more quickly in animals than in humans – sometimes in minutes to a few hours.

Dogs should be thoroughly rinsed off or bathed with fresh water after contact with water that may contain algae, even if it's not toxic algae. Contact your veterinarian immediately if pets or livestock show signs of illness.

What should I do if I think I've found a HAB?
You cannot tell if a bloom is toxic just by looking at it. Stay out of the water and do not let children or pets play in the water or near the shoreline where algae are present. Suspicious-looking algae can be reported to EGLE by calling the Environmental Assistance Center at 800.662.9278 or sending an email to AlgaeBloom@Michigan.gov. For more information, go to: www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3313_3681_3686_3728-383630--,00.html