



It is hard to believe that we are already in fall. While it is sad to leave behind the great warm weather that we had this summer, fall in Michigan is still my favorite season. While we will still be able to enjoy the fall color, it remains difficult to imagine fall without filling the Big House on Saturday. As we have had

to adapt during the past six months, it appears that these uncertain times will continue to have influence through at least the end of this year, and likely well into the next.

As Sarah Page mentioned in last month's newsletter, I would like to focus this month on the Gelman Plume and the newly released documents that are now available for public view and comment. On Aug. 31, the Washtenaw County Circuit Court lifted the confidentiality restriction that limited public access to documents developed as part of the negotiations between Gelman Sciences, the State of Michigan and the intervenors (City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County and its Health Department, Scio Township, and the Huron River Watershed Council). These newly released documents include the Fourth Amendment to the 1992 Consent Judgment, Dismissal Order, and three Settlement Agreements. All of these documents and their attachments are available for the public to review at www.a2gov.org/GelmanProposedSettlementDocs.

In addition to the released documents, there are seven videos available that explain the contents of the Fourth Amendment. These videos were prepared by Dr. Lawrence Lemke of Central Michigan University who has been the technical expert advising the intervenors through the negotiations. The release of these documents represent a significant milestone and is the result of several years of work by staff from each of the intervening organizations and their legal representatives.

The city's website has a brief summary, timeline of significant events and answers to frequently asked questions that also is a webpage resource for community members who want more information. Visit <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/water-treatment/Pages/Gelman-1,4-Dioxane-Litigation.aspx>.

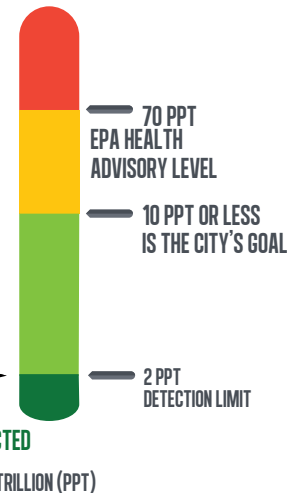
I would like to address a few items from the proposed Fourth Amendment as they relate to the long-term impact on the city's water supply and drinking water system. One important element included in the negotiated settlement is the installation of three new "sentinel wells." These wells will be located between the leading edge of the plume and Barton Pond, the city's primary drinking water source. These wells will provide an early warning of 1,4-dioxane migration toward the city's water supply. If dioxane were detected in these wells, this would provide a trigger for Gelman to complete further study and evaluation to ensure the city's water supply is adequately protected. A second important feature of the settlement is the increase in both pumped and treated contaminated groundwater as well as 1,4-dioxane mass removal. It is estimated that the amount of groundwater treated will increase by 40 percent and the amount of 1,4-dioxane mass removed will increase by more than 200 percent. Not only will these improvements accelerate the current rate of remediation, but also reduce the speed at which the plume is currently moving.

..... continued on page 2

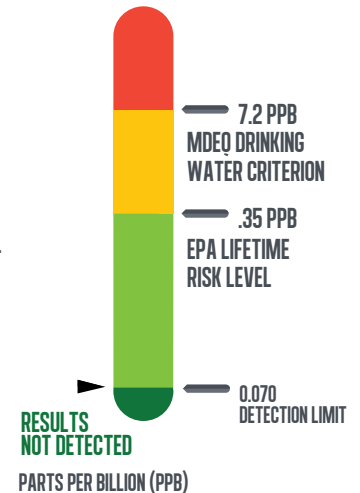
MONTHLY WATER QUALITY DASHBOARD



PFOS/PFOA



1,4-DIOXANE



..... continued from page 1

During the coming weeks, elected officials from the intervening parties will be considering the negotiated settlements and will be voting on whether to accept or reject the proposed update. The court has set a deadline for a final decision by Oct. 22, 2020. There were several opportunities in September for community members to have input and add their voice to this important decision. As a resident of Ann Arbor, I too will be waiting to see how Ann Arbor City Council, the Washtenaw County Commissioners, and Scio Township Board decide to vote on this issue and look forward to a final outcome.

Enjoy the fall weather and be well.

Brian Steglitz

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

Huron River Watershed Seeks Focus Group Volunteers

The Huron River Watershed Council will be conducting virtual focus groups in October.



Huron River Watershed Council

The groups will be discussing important issues around the water quality

in our local river, and HRWC is seeking input from Ann Arbor residents like you! HRWC is asking for 90 minutes of your time, and you will receive a \$75 gift card. If you are interested in participating, please complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HRWCwater>.



OCTOBER WATER CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to **Armaan Patel** and **DJ Tadikamalla** for being named October Water Champions for their stewardship of the rain garden at Burns Park. Although busy pre-med undergraduate students at the University of Michigan, Armaan and DJ live near this rain garden and they wanted to volunteer on a project that took them outside and gave them a break from studying. We thank them for volunteering and helping to make their neighborhood more beautiful.



“Flushable” wipes + grease clog the pipes

Things like “flushable” wipes, feminine hygiene products and paper towels do not break down like toilet paper. They cause blockages in your home and in sewer pipes. Fats, oils and greases do the same. Dispose of these in the trash, **never** down the drain.

To keep it flowing, only flush . . .



a2gov.org/wipesandfog