



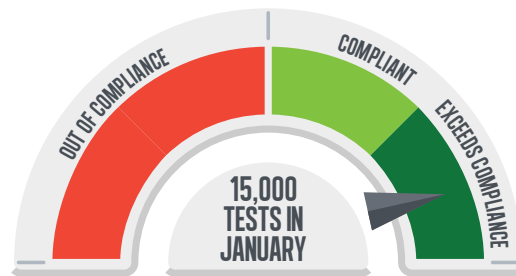
On the COVID front, there is finally some reassuring news. The vaccine is available and is currently being distributed. Since utility staff are essential infrastructure workers, they are in the queue

for receiving the vaccine as part of Phase 1b. However, there are 80,000 people in Washtenaw County included in this phase, so it is anticipated that it will take several months to administer the vaccine to the entire group. According to health experts, as the Ann Arbor community is vaccinated, it is important for community members to remain diligent by continuing to wear masks and social distance, even for those vaccinated.

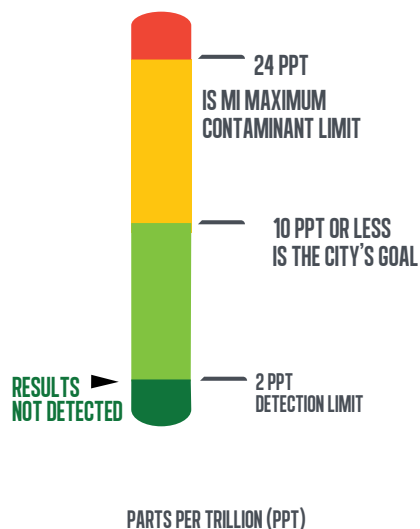
As we enter the heart of winter, our source waters are at their coldest. The Huron River, which provides the majority of the water supply for the city, is at a temperature just above freezing. This has a few impacts on water quality. First, the hardness of the city's drinking water increases from summer to winter by nearly 50 percent. The reason for this increase is due to the impact of the cold temperatures on the softening chemistry. The chemical reactions that allow the city to remove hardness from the water are much slower in the winter, resulting in less hardness removal. The second impact that you might notice as a consumer is that the cold water coming out of your tap may appear cloudy. The reason for this cloudiness is that the cold water has a lower capacity to retain dissolved gases such as oxygen. Since the city uses oxygen as part of its treatment process, the drinking water is saturated with dissolved oxygen gas. The pressure in the pipes delivering the water keeps the gas dissolved, but once it comes out of the tap in your home or business, the gas wants to escape which causes the cloudiness. If you leave the water in a glass for a few minutes you will see the water quickly clear up as the gas is released into the air. This may be an opportunity for an at-home science lesson with your children.

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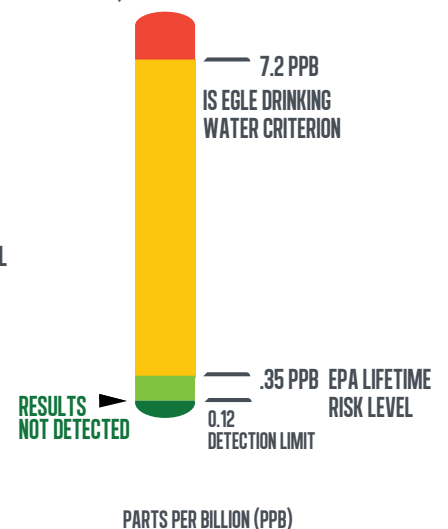
MONTHLY WATER QUALITY DASHBOARD



PFOS/PFOA



1,4-DIOXANE



Gelman Legal Proceeding Update

In January, Gelman put forward a motion with the Circuit Court to stay the hearing proceedings.



In response to this action, City of Ann Arbor Attorney Stephen K. Postema said, "Gelman's motion is to stay the hearing in this case that was ordered by the Circuit Court in November 2020 and is now set to be held in March 2021. The city finds no factual or legal merit in the motion and will file a timely joint response with the other intervenors opposing the motion prior to the Feb. 4, 2021 court hearing on the motion. This is a transparent attempt by Gelman to

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Since the January issue of Quality Water Matters, there are a few updates on the Gelman Plume litigation. On Dec. 8, 2020, the newly elected Scio Township board of trustees voted to reject the consent judgment and renew Scio Township's petition for Environmental Protection Agency intervention. The next milestone will be a hearing before Judge Connors of the Washtenaw County Circuit Court on March 22 and 23. Prior to this date, the interveners (which includes the City of Ann Arbor), the State of Michigan, and Gelman will be providing briefs to the court stating their current positions. The Court's actions on March 22 and 23 will dictate how the city will proceed in this case.

Be well.

Brian Steglitz

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

Congratulations to Brian who was presented with the American Water Works Association Honorary Member Award, which is awarded to individuals whose knowledge and accomplishments in the field of water supply deserve special recognition.

FEBRUARY WATER CHAMPION



Welcome to the city's new Drinking Water Quality Manager, **Dr. Becky Lahr, Ph.D.**, who is our February Water Champion.

Dr. Lahr comes to us from academia where she taught and conducted research in Civil and Environmental Engineering and Chemistry at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. She is passionate about improving and

maintaining high quality drinking water locally, about using water quality data to avoid and solve problems (including customer observations about water quality), and about discussing water quality with our community.

Virtual Water Treatment Plant Tours Offered

Do you have a group that is interested in learning more about the Water Treatment Plant? We are offering virtual tours for groups of 10 or more. Please request a tour by completing an [online form](#).



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further delay the state court case, and it was filed only after the city and other intervenors have expended an incredible amount of time and effort to prepare the detailed briefs and other documents required by the Circuit Court for the hearing."

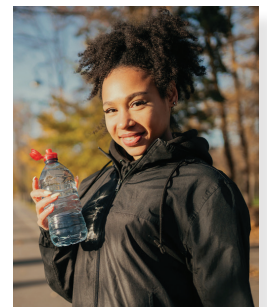
Winter Hydration Tips

According to the American Heart Association, remembering to drink enough water is easy during the summer, when higher temperatures and outdoor activities drive the point home. But staying adequately hydrated is just as important during the winter.



Central heating causes drier interior environments during the winter, which can lead to increased water loss simply from breathing. In cold environments, the kidneys actually excrete more urine and dehydration sets in when the body loses more water than it takes in.

Even minor dehydration – the level at which people begin to feel thirsty – is linked to difficulty concentrating, poor memory and bad moods. And studies have shown people who chronically consume a low amount of water seem to be at higher risk of developing chronic kidney disease, kidney stones and urinary tract infections.



Exactly how much water people need can vary. In general, the federal Institute of Medicine suggests women take in 2.7 liters and men 3.7 liters of water per day. That might sound like a lot, but because food contributes about 20 percent of the daily water total, women should drink 8, 8-ounce glasses and men 12, 8-ounce glasses.