



Michigan Department of Environmental Quality News Release

For Immediate Release: February 6, 2019

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MDEQ ALLEN CREEK DRAIN SAMPLING ACTIVITIES-GELMAN SITE

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has scheduled additional sampling of the Allen Creek Drain Storm Sewer to Help Assess Local Water Quality Concerns

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) announced that portions of the Allen Creek Drain Storm Sewer will be sampled on Thursday, February 7, 2019, (weather permitting), in collaboration with the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner, Mr. Evan Pratt; staff of the city of Ann Arbor and Gelman Sciences, Inc. (Gelman)

Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner, the city of Ann Arbor, and the MDEQ developed a sampling plan to help evaluate whether contaminated groundwater from the Gelman Site is making its way into the storm drain system. The initial sampling activities were first announced in a November 20, 2018, press release from Water Resources Commissioner Pratt (<https://www.washtenaw.org/DocumentCenter/View/11686/Press-Release112018-14-DioxaneResults>). At the request of MDEQ, Gelman has voluntarily agreed to complete the sampling activities detailed in the plan.

MDEQ Director Liesl Clark said “I appreciate the collaboration with the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner’s office, the city of Ann Arbor, and the voluntary cooperation of Gelman to further address concerns that have been expressed by members of the community.”

Next week’s sampling initiates a monthly sampling program that will take place from February to July 2019. The sampling program will be conducted following a work plan prepared by the MDEQ Remediation and Redevelopment Division (RRD) Jackson District office. The investigation will include sampling of the Allen Creek Drain Storm Sewer system at seven accessible locations summarized below:

- West Park
- Chaplin Street
- Maple Ridge-Arborview Blvd.
- Wildwood Ave.- Arborview Blvd.
- Murry Ave.-W. Washington St.

- Eighth St.-Waterworks Park
- Maryfield Wildwood Park

Sampling parameters will include analysis for 1,4 Dioxane and other volatile organic chemicals (VOCs). At the conclusion of the sampling activities an investigation summary report will be prepared and made available for the public.

Jackson District Supervisor, Gerald Tiernan, noted that this sampling program follows work Gelman performed in late 2016 at the request of the MDEQ. “With the potential for multiple sources of contamination within the sampling area in addition to the Gelman plume, we hope to identify whether the Gelman plume is a significant contributor to the degraded water quality historically observed in Allen Creek” Tiernan said.

MDEQ maintains a webpage about the Gelman Site entitled “[Gelman Sciences, Inc. Site of Contamination Information Page](#)”. General and technical information including information bulletins, fact sheets, reports and technical documents, legal documents, and sampling data related to the Gelman Site are posted and can be viewed by the general public.

Washtenaw County residents with additional questions about the Allen Creek Drain Storm Sewer investigation or the information on the webpage can be directed to:

- Dan Hamel, MDEQ Gelman Site Project Manager at 517-745-6595 or hameld@michigan.gov