

****PUBLIC NOTICE****

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has received a permit application for a proposed withdrawal of groundwater by Battle Creek Public Schools in Calhoun County. The location of the proposed new or increased large quantity withdrawal (NILQW) is Battle Creek Central High School in section 1, 02S08W, Battle Creek Township, Calhoun County.

Under amendments made to Part 327 of Act 451, Great Lakes Preservation (Part 327) a person who intends to make a NILQW of over 2 million gallons per day (MGD) is required to submit a permit application for the proposed withdrawal. Part 327 requires the permit application include the following:

- Place and source of the proposed or existing withdrawal
- Location of any discharge or return flow
- Location and nature of the proposed withdrawal or existing water user
- Actual or estimated average annual and monthly volumes and rate of withdrawal
- Actual or estimated average annual and monthly volumes and rate of consumptive use from the withdrawal
- Submittal of an application fee in the amount of \$2,000.00.

The Battle Creek Public Schools permit application was received by the MDEQ on April 7, 2008. The proposed withdrawal amount at the site is 1900 gallons per minute (GPM), or 2.74 MGD.

The WB determined that the information provided in the Battle Creek High School's permit application was administratively complete and sufficient to proceed with processing of the permit application. Under Part 327 the issuance of a permit requires a determination by the MDEQ that the NILQW will not cause an adverse resource impact (ARI). An ARI is likely when a water withdrawal is projected to result in decreased stream flows to an extent such that the ability of area streams to support their characteristic fish populations would be functionally impaired.

The proposed water withdrawal is for the geothermal heating and cooling of Battle Creek Central High School, and is not a consumptive use. The withdrawn water would be discharged to the Battle Creek River. In making a determination as to the likelihood of an ARI the MDEQ will work in conjunction with the Fisheries Division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The determination on the likelihood of an ARI includes ascertaining the stream segments that would likely be affected, making an estimate of stream flow reductions, and projecting the probable effect on the characteristic fish populations of impacted streams.

The MDEQ is aware of concerns regarding the impact of proposed NILQWs on ground water resources and area residential wells. The public is herein advised that the issuance of a water withdrawal permit to Battle Creek Public Schools would not absolve them of any future potential liability under Part 317 of Act 451, Aquifer Protection and Dispute Resolution (Part 317). Individual complaints on the failure of wells should be directed to David DeYoung, Water Bureau, MDEQ, P.O. Box 30273, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7773, telephone: 517-241-1409, e-mail: deyoungd@michigan.gov.

Copies of the NILQW permit application and public notice may be obtained via the internet at (<http://www.michigan.gov/deqwater>) within the Announcements section under the heading "Public Notice for Proposed NILQW for Battle Creek Public Schools." Comments as to the likelihood of an ARI on area streams received by May 31, 2008 may be considered in the decision to issue or deny a permit for the proposed NILQW. Persons desiring information regarding the permit process, the likelihood of an ARI, or procedures for commenting should contact Brant O. Fisher, Water Bureau, MDEQ, P.O. Box 30273, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7773, telephone: 517-241-1415, e-mail: fisherb@michigan.gov.