

Belding Lead Monitoring



Public Meeting Summary Belding Area Schools Administration Building 1975 Orchard Street, Belding Sept. 23, 2010

On Sept. 23, 2010, the DNRE held a public meeting in Belding to discuss the air samples that had been collected in that city. These samples showed that the amount of lead in the air in Belding exceeds what is allowed by the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), set by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. The meeting consisted of a short presentation and a question-and-answer session, staffed by DNRE air, remediation and water program personnel, as well as staff from the Michigan Department of Community Health and the Ionia County Health Department. Approximately 50 people were in attendance.

The presentation was divided into three parts. The first was an explanation of the EPA's new, stricter NAAQS and the requirement that monitoring be conducted at facilities emitting more than 1 ton of lead per year, including Mueller Industries' facility in Belding. The second part of the presentation detailed the health effects of lead, the sources of lead exposure and the number of incidences of elevated blood lead-levels in the area. The third part of the presentation focused on the steps that Mueller Industries is taking to lower the emissions of lead into the air. The overall message communicated during the presentation was that while immediate action needs to be taken by Mueller Industries and the DNRE to lower the amount of lead emitted into the air, citizens need not take extra precautions at this time to prevent lead exposure.

The question-and-answer session lasted approximately one and one-half hours. Questions covered topics including the placement of additional monitors, whether other pollutants should be monitored, whether lead in the soil and in the water is a concern, and the possibilities for remediation.