



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GARY MCDOWELL
DIRECTOR

June 26, 2019

FDA Intergovernmental Affairs Team (IGA@fda.hhs.gov)
Dr. Emilio Esteban, USDA FSIS Chief Scientist (emilio.esteban@usda.gov)

Dear FDA and USDA:

As you are aware, Michigan has been challenged with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) for over two years now. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is currently dealing with a situation where PFAS is encroaching on an agricultural site and we are looking for some insight on how best to address.

In the past you have offered to assist MDARD with site-specific concerns related to PFAS contamination. ***By way of this letter, we are requesting coordinated assistance from both of your agencies in working with the farm owner to further investigate and advise on the proper path moving forward.***

By way of background, the original contamination site is from a long-closed plating facility where heavy metal contamination was first discovered in 1972 and PFAS contamination was discovered in 2018.

The location is a beef cattle and row crop operation located in Richland Township that falls within the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team's (MPART) North 34th Street Kalamazoo County site investigation. The well water for the cattle is non-detect for PFAS. However, adjacent surface water used for irrigating fields to grow animal feed was recently found to contain PFOS at 152 and 316 ppt. The farm and the growing fields are not in the contamination plume, but the irrigation pond is on the edge of an area which has shown groundwater contamination. Pivot irrigation is used for row crops and water is pulled from said pond. Fields have been irrigated from this pond for many years.

Kevin Besey will serve as MDARD's point of contact. He can be reached at 517-582-1156 or beseyk@michigan.gov.

MDARD wants to do our part to assure public health protection. Any support you can lend in determining the correct course of action is appreciated. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gary McDowell
Director

cc: Kevin Besey, MDARD, Emerging Contaminants Coordinator
Steve Sliver, Executive Director, Michigan PFAS Action Response Team