

What online resources are available to realtors and the general public interested in locating potentially contaminated or listed contaminated sites?

The DEQ has a number of resources/databases available that list known sites of contamination. There is a link to these database, under the heading called "Online Services," which is located in the gray banner at the top of all DEQ Web pages.

"Online Services" lists most of the DEQ databases are available to the public. However, the user will still need to know which of the databases are pertinent to searching for listed or potentially contaminated property.

Brownfield-UST Field Site Directory has information on potential redevelopment properties in Michigan. There are 1,133 sites listed as of January 2007. Included in the database are both Sites of General Contamination (Part 201) and Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (Part 213) sites. Site summaries and photographs can be accessed for properties that have a blue font in the appropriate fields. **Note:** Definitions of column headings can be displayed by placing your cursor over the column heading in the search results.

Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program can help the potential lake front property owner find out about the water quality of the lakes in the area. The Web page has links to DEQ's Water Quality Monitoring pages and the "Fish Advisory" page. The water quality monitoring page gives the user access to assessments of Michigan's water, inland lakes monitoring, and beach water monitoring.

Leaking Underground Storage Tank Sites (LUSTs) contains information on USTs that have been verified to have leaked. The Web page provides a detailed definition of "open" or "closed" release. For a complete list of LUST sites, the user will need to search the database by both the "open" and "closed" release buttons. The user does not need to know the complete address for the facility and can use a "%" as a wild card. If the correct spelling of the street name is not known, the name can be abbreviated and the "%" used. For example, if the user cannot spell "Lafayette," the following syntax could be used, "111 Laf%". For accurate results, the user should type in the city and county name. The LUST information may not be entirely accurate and should be verified by calling the local DEQ district office or the Environmental Assistance Center.

Michigan Online Gas and Oil System allows the public user to search for selected oil, gas, and underwater injection control data from the division's databases. This includes basic well, production, disposition, injection, and inspection information. It also allows for the user to export query results.

Part 201 Site Search database contains information on verified sites of general contamination (contaminated barrel storage areas, spill sites, etc.). The recommended way to search the database is to select the county name from the dropdown menu or type the city name in the provided box and then click the "submit" button.

Superfund Project Assignment Directory contains information on locations where there are uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites as well as where accidents, spills, and other emergency releases of pollutants and contaminants have occurred into the environment. The Superfund Program involves a state/federal partnership to clean up some of the most complex and controversial sites in Michigan. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 (USEPA) has primary responsibility. The USEPA is obligated to consider and apply state and federal environmental laws, standards, technical comments, and community concerns when making cleanup decisions.

Underground Storage Tank List (USTs) contains information about facilities with registered USTs or where abandoned USTs have been found. The Web page provides a detailed definition of an "active" or "closed" facility. For a complete list of UST sites, the user will need to search the database by both the "active" and "closed" buttons. The UST information may not be entirely accurate and should be verified by calling the local DEQ district office or the Environmental Assistance Center.

The Waste Data System (WDS) tracks activities at facilities regulated by the Solid Waste, Scrap Tire, Hazardous Waste, and Liquid Industrial Waste programs. WDS can provide information on ownership and operation of the facility; the status of any required permits, licenses, registrations, or certifications; compliance status; authorized transporters; shipments of hazardous or liquid industrial waste (manifest); and user fees.

Windows to My Environment (WME) is a powerful, Web-based tool that provides a wide range of federal, state, and local information about environmental conditions and features in an area of your choice. This tool is provided by USEPA in partnership with federal, state, and local governments and other organizations (www.epa.gov/enviro/wme/).

For more information on locating potentially contaminated or listed contaminated sites, visit www.michigan.gov/deq and click the "Online Services" link below the DEQ title bar at the top of the Web page or call the Environmental Assistance Center at 800-662-9278.