



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



C. HEIDI GRETHER
DIRECTOR

December 15, 2017

VIA E-MAIL

Mr. Dave Latchana
Wolverine World Wide, Inc.
9341 Courtland Drive, NE
Rockford, Michigan 49351

Dear Mr. Latchana:

SUBJECT: Wolverine World Wide, Inc. (WWW), PFAS Response
Identification and Investigation of Rogue River Area
Kent County, Michigan

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has been informed by WWW that several residential wells located between the House Street disposal area and the Rogue River to the southeast have been contaminated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) above the United States Environmental Protection Agency Lifetime Health Advisory Level of 70 parts per trillion. In addition, WWW has reported that groundwater beneath the former Tannery property in Rockford is contaminated with significantly elevated PFAS concentrations.

The DEQ received and reviewed the WWW's December 11, 2017, "Susceptibility of Wells Along the Rogue River to Impacts from the Former Wolverine Tannery" letter. The DEQ acknowledges the complexity of the regional geological conditions within the Rogue River valley; however, there are multiple source areas that may be linked to WWW that have the potential to affect the public health of residents along the Rogue River.

Based upon this information, the DEQ is requesting that WWW take measures to mitigate potential public health risks and assess the contaminated areas referenced above by performing the following response activities:

- Submit a work plan and schedule to initiate by December 21, 2017, the canvassing and sampling of all residential wells within the area from the former Tannery property south to the Grand River within approximately 1,500 feet of the Rogue River to the east and west, as well as the additional potentially impacted areas, all as set forth on the enclosed figure and labeled as "Expansion to House Street Sampling Area." Please see the enclosed figure for the actual boundaries of this area of concern to which the canvassing and sampling requirements apply.
- Supply bottled water or an effective filtration system until a long-term, reliable alternate water supply can be provided.

In addition, a DEQ inspection at 1778 House Street on December 4, 2017, documented the presence of animal hides in an approximately 20 feet x 30 feet area. Please provide a work plan and schedule to complete the removal of the animal hides by December 31, 2017.

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Finally, please provide documentation of the removal activities that took place at 205 Main Street in Rockford by December 31, 2017.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ms. Abigail Hendershott, Acting Grand Rapids District Supervisor, Remediation and Redevelopment Division, at 616-888-0528; hendershotta@michigan.gov; or DEQ, 350 Ottawa Avenue, NW, Unit 10, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503.

Sincerely,



Susan Leeming
External Relations Deputy Director
517-284-6715

Enclosure

cc/enc: Mr. Cameron Van Wyngarden, Plainfield Township Superintendent
Ms. Carol Isaacs, Governor's Office
Mr. Scott Hiipakka, Governor's Office
Ms. Sara Simmonds, Kent County Health Department
Ms. Polly Synk, Department of Attorney General
Ms. C. Heidi Grether, Director, DEQ
Mr. Michael McClellan, Environment Deputy Director, DEQ
Mr. Nate Zimmer, DEQ
Ms. Kathleen Shirey, DEQ
Mr. David O'Donnell, DEQ
Ms. Abigail Hendershott, DEQ