



*City Manager's Office*

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Cedar Springs City Hall  
66 S. Main St. PO Box 310  
Cedar Springs, MI 49319

December 29, 2020

Eric Chatterson  
Michigan Dept of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy  
Water Resources Division  
525 West Allegan Street  
PO Box 30473  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7973

Via Email and U.S. Certified Mail

Re: Violation Notice No. VN-011095/EGLE December 8, 2020 Letter

Dear Mr. Chatterson:

This letter responds to EGLE's December 8, 2020 letter (**December 8, 2020 Letter**) in response to the City of Cedar Springs' November 16, 2020 response to Violation Notice VN-011095 (**VN**).

1. Former Lagoon Area. Based on the content of the December 8, 2020 Letter and our understanding of telephone conversations between Tim Patterson of Fishbeck, the City's environmental consultant, and you on December 16, 2020 and, separately, between Tim Patterson and Stephanie Kammer of EGLE on that same date, we believe that EGLE misunderstands the City's intentions relative to EGLE's reported detection of PFAS in the former lagoon area. Fishbeck has started to prepare the CSM, as described in the Work Plan included as part of the City's November 16, 2020 response to the VN. As reflected in the Work Plan, upon completion of the CSM and Fishbeck's findings related to the CSM, Fishbeck plans to submit its work product to EGLE, along with relevant alternatives for next steps, including a remedial investigation work plan, as applicable. As is inherent in an environmental investigation, the nature of the additional steps will be determined by the findings from the initial step – in this case, the development of the CSM.

By commencing its investigation of the PFAS detections with a review of known hydrogeological and geological information, the City did not intend to suggest that the City would not perform additional investigatory measures, irrespective of the outcome of the CSM and related findings. To the contrary,

as reflected in the November 16, 2020 Work Plan, the CSM and interpretation thereof is a first step that will inform next steps relative to the PFAS detections. To the extent that the City is responsible for PFAS concentrations detected above residential criteria in this area, the City will comply with its corresponding obligations under Part 201 of Public Act 451 of 1994, as amended. And as part of those obligations, the City would determine the nature and extent of the PFAS contamination in or associated with the former lagoon area.

We understand that Mr. Patterson requested (in his conversations noted above) copies of EGLE's records regarding EGLE's sampling of residential wells as referenced in the VN and in the December 8, 2020 Letter. We also understand that Ms. Kammer was checking with Karen Vorce at EGLE who would have access to and could provide those records. Please provide this information (specifically the addresses of the residential wells that were sampled and the analytical data) to Mr. Patterson ([tkpatterson@fishbeck.com](mailto:tkpatterson@fishbeck.com)) as soon as possible. EGLE's records are relevant to understanding the nature and extent of the PFAS in the vicinity of the former lagoon area.

In connection with Fishbeck's review of historical and accessible information relevant for the CSM, a potential source of PFAS located what appears to be upgradient of the former lagoon area has been identified. The former Robinson Bulk Terminal is located east of the City's former lagoon area and became an Act 307 site in the late 1980s and is currently an open Part 213 Leaking Underground Storage Tank site. Petroleum bulk storage facilities can be a source of PFAS due to the use of aqueous film forming foams (AFFF) used to fight petroleum fires. I understand that Mr. Patterson relayed this finding to you and Ms. Kammer in the above-referenced conversations. Please provide all of EGLE's PFAS sampling data and any environmental investigation information related to this site to Mr. Patterson as soon as possible. This potential source will be considered as part of Fishbeck's initial investigation, and information about this source may affect additional steps, as noted above.

2. Current Discharge Fields. As indicated in the City's November 16, 2020 response to the VN, the City planned to resample MW-5, a compliance well pursuant to the City's Groundwater Discharge Permit No. GW1810233 (**Permit**). This is the sole well within the current discharge fields that, when sampled in January 2020, identified one PFAS compound (PFOA) nominally (2 parts per trillion) above its drinking water cleanup criterion (effective August 2, 2020). The City resampled the well on December 11, 2020. The results did not identify any PFAS concentrations above their current Part 201 cleanup criteria. A copy of the analytical data is enclosed.

In the December 8, 2020 Letter, EGLE requested that the City prepare a hydrogeological investigation work plan in response to the single PFAS compound detected in MW-5 in January 2020. Given the resampling result, the City proposes as an alternative at this time the development and implementation a PFAS monitoring program for the discharge fields. If acceptable, Fishbeck will

prepare a groundwater monitoring program for EGLE review and approval. Based on the December 11, 2020 PFAS results at MW-5, PFAS concentrations in groundwater at the drainage field do not currently exceed Part 201 Cleanup Criteria at the drainage fields, and a hydrogeological study is not necessary at this time.

We do not track with all aspects of EGLE's explanation of the alleged permit violation in the December 8, 2020 Letter. In any event, at this time, the City proposes to proceed with additional groundwater monitoring. If PFAS concentrations are observed above Part 201 Cleanup Criteria at the drainage field in future sampling events, , a work plan for a hydrogeological investigation of the discharge field will be prepared and submitted to EGLE.

As stated above, the City has every intention of complying with its obligations relative to PFAS in the former lagoon area. This intention applies to the current discharge fields as well. The City believes that the CSM for the former lagoon area and additional monitoring for the discharge fields are the appropriate immediate next steps, with more detailed work plans and investigatory steps informed by those results to follow. To allow time for review of the forthcoming EGLE records and complete the work described in this letter, the City respectfully requests an extension of the deadline contained in the December 8, 2020 Letter to February 15, 2020.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me with any questions. We would be happy to participate in a conference call to discuss this matter if that would be helpful.

Cc: Tim Patterson, Fishbeck

Mary Jane Rhoades, Rhoades McKee

Sincerely,

Enclosure



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