



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY  
GRAND RAPIDS DISTRICT OFFICE



LIESL EICHLER CLARK  
DIRECTOR

October 1, 2020

VIA EMAIL AND  
CERTIFIED MAIL – 7018 2290 0001 5106 1519  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Michael Berg  
Boulder Creek Development Company, LLC  
1730 3 Mile Road, NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505

Dear Mr. Berg:

SUBJECT: Response Activity to Provide Permanent Alternate Water Supply  
& Continued Residential Well Sampling  
Northeast Gravel Company Site, (formerly known as 4300 Cannonsburg  
Road), 3769 Cannonsburg Road, NE, Kent County, Michigan;  
Facility ID No.: 41000048

As previously communicated to Boulder Creek Development Company, LLC (BCDC) in letters dated June 19, 2018, and July 24, 2019, the Northeast Gravel Company Site at 3769 Cannonsburg Road, NE (Property) is considered a "facility" under Michigan's environmental cleanup law, Part 201, Environmental Remediation, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (Part 201).

The former licensed landfill that operated at the Property accepted wastes from industries known to have used Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in their processes. A sample of the tannery waste cell collected on January 17, 2019, was shown to have 42,370,000 parts per trillion (ppt) perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) combined. A smaller landfill cell containing hazardous substances from plating operations was also sampled on January 17, 2019, which was shown to have 1,002,000 ppt PFOA and PFOS combined. PFOA and PFOS have been detected in monitoring wells and irrigation wells at levels which exceed the Part 201 Cleanup Criteria for groundwater used as drinking water. The PFAS waste has contaminated the groundwater which has then contaminated three onsite surface water ponds above the Groundwater-Surface Water Interface (GSI) Cleanup Criterion of 12 ppt for PFOS. PFOS concentrations as high as 2902.9 ppt have been detected in surface water which has been impacted by contaminated groundwater at the Property.

Until 2019, BCDC irrigated the golf course greens (including the greens north of 7 Mile Road) with water from the southern pond on the Property. PFOS concentrations in the southern pond were identified at levels as high as 969.73 ppt. BCDC has worked over

the last year to switch the golf course irrigation source to a new location that provides water that meets regulatory standards.

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) promulgated state drinking water standards for seven PFAS compounds which became effective August 3, 2020. State drinking water standards are also commonly referenced as maximum contaminant levels and developed under section 5 of the State Drinking Water Act, 1976 PA 299 [MCL 325.1005].

Because EGLE had previously developed generic cleanup criteria for groundwater used as drinking water for PFOA and PFOS, under Part 201, Environmental Remediation, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended [MCL 324.20120a(5)], the state drinking water standards became the PFOA and PFOS generic cleanup criteria for groundwater used as drinking water. Therefore, the state drinking water standards of 8 ppt and 16 ppt, respectively for PFOA and PFOS, replace the previously established residential and nonresidential drinking water criteria of 70 ppt for the combined concentrations of PFOA and PFOS.

#### Request for Permanent Alternate Water Supply

As you are aware, many properties surrounding the Northeast Gravel Company Property currently rely on drinking water wells as their potable water source. Nearby drinking water wells have been sampled by BCDC, by EGLE's subcontractor, and by individual property owners over the past three years. Based on review of this sampling data, several properties have had detections of PFOA which exceed the current Part 201 groundwater standard or were expected to exceed the groundwater standard where BCDC offered to install point-of-use filters in lieu of sampling. Below is a summary of these properties:

##### **Cannonsburg Road Area:**

- 4435 Cannonsburg Road, NE
- 4505/4507 Cannonsburg Road, NE

##### **Northland Drive Area:**

- 6460 & 6448 Northland Drive, NE (Spring Valley Mobile Home Park)

##### **Bittersweet Area:**

- Parcels which utilize drinking water wells screened in the PFAS groundwater contamination in the Bittersweet Drive/ Butternut Drive/ Brewer Avenue area as outlined on the attached figure where BCDC offered point-of-use filters in lieu of sampling.

As described by EGLE in communication letters dated June 19, 2018, and July 24, 2019, BCDC is liable for the contamination at these properties. Liable parties under Section 20126 of Part 201 have an affirmative obligation to comply with Section 20114 of Part 201 which lists the requirements of a liable party to address environmental contamination.

A liable party is required under Section 20114(1)(h)(iv) to "take any other response activity determined by the department to be technically sound and necessary to protect the public health, safety, welfare or the environment." EGLE has determined that in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, it is necessary for BCDC to provide a permanent alternate water supply capable of providing water of sufficient quality for drinking for each of the properties identified above in this letter. EGLE notes that existing water mains are located either in front of, adjacent to, or no more than 300 yards from the properties identified above. Municipal water connections to impacted properties would constitute a permanent alternate water supply that would be technically sound and feasible.

By November 16, 2020, please provide EGLE a timeline for the implementation of providing a permanent alternate water supply to the properties outlined above in this letter.

#### Request for Residential Well Sampling Plan

In addition to the municipal water connections discussed above, there will be remaining drinking water wells in the area that require PFAS testing and/or follow-up testing. This is especially important since the nature and extent of PFAS groundwater contamination has not yet been defined. By November 16, 2020, please provide for EGLE review and approval a Residential Well Sampling Plan which identifies drinking water wells which will be sampled by BCDC on a specific sampling schedule.<sup>1</sup> This plan should include drinking water wells located near a sampling point which historically exceeded Part 201 criteria or drinking water wells which are at risk of exceeding the groundwater standards in the future. At a minimum, the following properties should be included in the Residential Well Sampling Plan:

- 6430 Northland Drive, NE
- 6410 Northland Drive, NE
- 6237 Northland Drive, NE
- 6475 Thimbleweed Lane, NE
- 6486 Thimbleweed Lane, NE
- 6494 Thimbleweed Lane, NE
- 6504 Thimbleweed Lane, NE
- 6510 Thimbleweed Lane, NE
- 6516 Thimbleweed Lane, NE
- 6522 Thimbleweed Lane, NE
- 6532 Thimbleweed Lane, NE
- 4360 7 Mile Road, NE
- 4361 7 Mile Road, NE
- 4320 7 Mile Road, NE

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<sup>1</sup> To the extent that BCDC commits to extending municipal water to these properties, those properties do not need to be included in the Residential Well Sampling Plan.

- 4284 7 Mile Road, NE
- 4253 7 Mile Road, NE
- 4230 7 Mile Road, NE
- 4211 7 Mile Road, NE
- 6200 Brewer Avenue, NE
- 6207 Brewer Avenue, NE
- 3955 Butternut Drive, NE
- 4540 Cannonsburg Road, NE
- 4585 Cannonsburg Road, NE
- Any drinking water wells on Bittersweet Drive, NE which were not offered point-of-use filters by BCDC.

EGLE acknowledges and appreciates that BCDC has completed the interim response actions of residential well sampling and provision of point-of-use filters to date. However, as stated above, a permanent solution is needed. EGLE is available to virtually meet with BCBC prior to November 16, 2020, to further discuss the contents of this letter.

Sincerely,



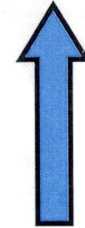
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Enclosure

cc/via e-mail: Mr. Gary Schenk, Schenk Boncher & Rypma  
Mr. Cameron Van Wyngarden, Plainfield Charter Township  
Mr. William Farrell, Department of Health and Human Services  
Mr. Brendan Earl, Kent County Health Department  
Ms. Polly Synk, Department of Attorney General  
Ms. Vicki Katko, EGLE  
Ms. Karen Vorce, EGLE




Figure 1: Bittersweet Area Parcels  
Plainfield Township, Michigan



North

Bittersweet Drive / Butternut Drive / Brewer Avenue Area

Updated: 9/29/2020 (EGLE-RRD)

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BOULDER CREEK DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LLC  
1730 3 MILE ROAD NE  
GRAND RAPIDS MI 49505

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