

To: MAPRT CAWG  
From: Ricard Rediske  
Re: Eagle Ottawa Meeting Report

The Engaging the Public subgroup met with MPART and MDARD on 4/26 and the slides are included in a separate attachment. The majority of the presentation was by Aaron Assmann, who is the site lead from RRD. In addition to Eagle Ottawa, Aaron is responsible for 5 PFAS sites and shares responsibility for 370 part 201 sites and 56 Underground Storage Tanks sites in Newaygo, Oceana, Barry, and Montcalm Counties with Heather Hopkins, also from RRD. Slide 13 has a listing of their responsibilities. Eagle Ottawa is a complex site with highly contaminated soil (200,000+ ppt PFOS) and shallow groundwater (200 – 1800 ppt PFOA) on two large farm parcels (Hilltop and Longview). PFAS was discovered during a Baseline Environmental Assessment (BEA) conducted for a property transfer. The Eagle Ottawa Tannery in Grand Haven used the sites for sludge disposal from the mid 90s to 2006/2007. The sites are currently being used hog CAFOs and Lear Mexican Seating Company is the PRP. The new CAFO owners installed an activated carbon filter to the livestock feeding well and checked the irrigation wells and found no detectable PFAS on one farm and levels below the 201 Standards at the other. The animal diet only contains 1-2% corn from the property. There is more site information to collect about soil, groundwater, and food chain contamination.

EGLE identified the residential property owners surrounding the site by plat map searches, collected well log data, and asked WMU for an expedited geological review. The timeline summarized below shows that the residents were notified approximately 30 days after receipt of the data. A total of 127 person hrs were spent on the tasks in the timeline. EGLE did an excellent job reviewing the site data and coordinating the collection of additional data with MDARD and MDHHS. Aaron was asked if the EGLE could speed up the public notification process and he felt that was not possible with current staffing. MPART and RRD staff thought that the local health departments were even more understaffed.

#### Timeline of Events

**Dec. 27, 2021** – EGLE received Baseline Environmental Assessment (BEA)

Dec. 28 – EGLE- RRD -Grand Rapids holds District meeting

Jan. 3-4, 2022 – EGLE compiles and discusses available drinking water well logs w/local health

Jan. 3, 2022 – EGLE first met with MDARD, DHHS, local health, and MPART

Requests geologic review from Western Michigan University

Jan. 4 – MDARD first contacts farm owner

Jan. 6 – EGLE meets with DHHS to discuss residential sampling strategy

Jan. 10 – MPART meets with EGLE (RRD, Materials Management Division (MMD), Water Resources Division (WRD)) and MDARD

Jan. 11 – DHHS creates initial draft of Public Health Action Plan (PHAP)

Jan. 13 – EGLE proposes sampling locations to DHHS and local health

Jan. 13 & 18 – EGLE MMD & WRD respectively provide records to RRD

Jan. 18 – EGLE requests approval for drinking water sampling resources

Jan. 27 – draft “Timeline of Events” following record review

Jan. 31 – Update meeting with MPART, EGLE, MDARD, DHHS and local health

Feb. 3 – EGLE notifies Township Managers

**Feb. 4** – EGLE mails letters to request access to 25 residences

36 letters (mailed to owner and property addresses when different)

EGLE contacted and met with LHD and MDHHS the week after receiving the data and the PHAP was developed by MDHHS 2 weeks after data receipt. We should review the Public Health Action Plan (PHAP) and consider meeting with representatives of MDHHS and the local health department (LHD) to hear their thoughts on early notification of a PFAS investigation. The farm owner used the BEA data to decide to install a carbon filter on the CAFO well supply and limit the use of corn grown on site to feed the animals. The public needs to have access to the same data so they can make informed decisions about the water they are drinking when a PFAS investigation is being conducted near their wells.