



KENT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kent County DPW Expands Methane Collection System in Kentwood

Kentwood, MI – During routine monitoring in 2016, the Kent County Department of Public Works (DPW) discovered migration of methane gas to the west of the Kentwood Landfill. In 2015, DPW had installed a series of collection wells and a flare to contain the methane on-site to limit migration, but it was clear that a larger system would be needed. Methane gas forms naturally in landfills.

To increase the effectiveness of the existing landfill gas collection system, additional gas collection wells will be installed in nine locations along the west edge of the landfill beginning in August 2017. Seven additional gas monitoring probes will also be installed to the west of the landfill, and a second flare will be installed next to the existing flare southeast of the library.

Since August 2016, Kent County and City of Kentwood have been monitoring the air quality inside the City buildings on the west side of the landfill. DPW also contracted with a third-party firm (Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc.) to provide free testing in any of the 150 homes west of the landfill site.

“Testing has consistently shown that the methane is not entering the buildings,” noted Dar Baas, DPW Director. “Public safety continues to be our priority and we will continue monitoring for methane indefinitely.”

Property owners within 1500-feet of the landfill’s western boundary will be notified of the additional work being done and free on-site testing for methane continues to be available to them by calling Kent County DPW at 616.632.7920.

Project updates will be posted to Kent County’s website at www.accesskent.com/kentwoodlandfill.

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About the site: The 72-acre Kentwood Landfill site is an inactive municipal landfill which was closed in 1976. The site is bordered by the City of Kentwood City Center, library, and the City of Kentwood Public Works facility to the west; the City of Kentwood Justice Center to the northwest; and Plaster Creek and ravine areas to the north, east and south.

Funding for this project and other Kentwood Landfill remediation efforts comes from the Kent County Solid Waste Surcharge.