



KENT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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Information Sheet - PFAS/PFOA and North Kent Landfill

- North Kent Landfill (NKL) property was purchased between 1970 and 1974.
- The DPW opened NKL in 1978 and closed in 1986.
- In mid-1980, Kent County was approached by Wolverine World Wide (WWW) after they lost their ability to dispose of its sludge at the Boulder Creek site.
 - WWW's sludge was tested and confirmed to be nonhazardous and could be disposed in the NKL under the existing permit issued by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR was the predecessor to MDEQ).
 - Sludge disposal was approved by MDNR and Plainfield Township.
 - WWW's sludge was mixed with foundry sand to solidify it and then placed in a separate area of the landfill. Tests were completed prior to disposal to determine if the sludge was likely to leach out of NKL. The sludge passed the leach tests.
- NKL closed in 1986 and capped in full compliance with all MDEQ regulations. Regulations require post-closure monitoring of the cap and the groundwater.
- Although Kent County did not have any indication that PFAS/PFOA was contaminating groundwater under NKL, on November 8, 2017, Kent County sent a letter to WWW and MDEQ requesting testing of monitoring wells around NKL to determine if tannery waste was leaking from NKL.
- In December 2017, MDEQ conducted testing of eight groundwater monitoring wells at NKL. Test results showed combined PFOA/PFOS above the 70ppt action level in three of the 8 wells tested. The three wells above the 70 ppt action level were at 93.7 and 161.4 ppt north of NKL, and 237.1 ppt south-southwest of NKL.
- Kent County is working with MDEQ and testing drinking water at the 47 homes and businesses south-southwest of NKL and will supply these residences with bottled water until tests results are completed, at which time the DPW will provide additional protections if needed. The homes are east of the current testing area established between 131 and Belmont Avenue. Homes to the north and north-east of NKL are already in testing areas due to the historic reported use of tannery as farm fertilizer. DPW is investigating whether sludge was spread on the NKL property prior to using the property for municipal solid waste disposal.



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