For Immediate Release
September 6, 2018

UPDATE on PFAS Testing in Blair Township

Results from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) regarding 26 private wells tested for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) levels in Blair Township on August 6th have been received.

PFAS levels for 17 of the 26 wells were “non-detect” or no traceable contaminants were found. Nine of the wells showed levels of PFAS that ranged between 2 parts-per-trillion and 36 parts-per-trillion. All the results are less than the Environmental Protection Agency’s Health Advisory Level of 70 parts-per-trillion.

While there is no immediate health concern for any of the residents using the affected wells, the Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) will still be contacting individual owners/residents of the nine wells and providing an alternate water solution for these properties as a precautionary measure. GTCHD will begin implementing an interim plan to provide water access vouchers for bottled water to the individuals with any level of PFAS contamination. The vouchers will allow for receipt of bottled water supplies through the Blair Township Office. Affected residents will be individually notified directly and provided with information on how to obtain the bottled water and other health information. In addition, and as a reminder, the well for the Blair Elementary School was found to have no detectable levels of PFAS.

A coordinated effort between MDEQ, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and GTCHD will be on-going. Further analysis, planning and monitoring of the properties near the old Carl’s Retreading site will continue.

Additional information regarding PFAS can be found at:
https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse
https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/overview.html
https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos

Any questions regarding wells or drinking water in areas near the Blair Township location should be directed to the GTCHD’s Environmental Health Division at 231-995-6051.

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