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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
GRAND RAPIDS DISTRICT OFFICE



C. HEIDI GREETHER  
DIRECTOR

September 28, 2018

Dr. Michael Shibler, Superintendent  
Rockford Public Schools  
350 North Main Street  
Rockford, Michigan 49341

Subject: Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) - Water Quality Testing for Rockford Public Schools: Cannonsburg Elementary, Crestwood Elementary, Lakes Elementary and East Rockford Middle Schools

Dear Dr. Shibler,

As you know, over the past 18 months, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has been overseeing the ongoing Wolverine Worldwide PFAS investigations in Northern Kent County. In addition, the DEQ has begun a statewide initiative to test all municipal drinking water supplies and schools on private well water for potential PFAS impacts. This testing is being done through the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) to evaluate PFAS across the state and determine if public health actions are needed. All four of the Rockford Public Schools that are not hooked to municipal water systems, Cannonsburg Elementary, Crestwood Elementary, Lakes Elementary and East Rockford Middle Schools were sampled as part of that effort.

The results of the schools' testing were previously provided. A low-level detection of MeFOSAA was identified in the East Rockford Middle School (ERMS) water supply.

The DEQ has again reviewed all of the available investigation data from the North Kent PFAS Investigations and does not have any evidence of a PFAS source in the area. Therefore, based on the multiple lines of evidence from the investigation and the multiple sampling results, the DEQ does not find evidence of area wide PFAS groundwater contamination around East Rockford Middle School. In addition, the DEQ investigation, using multiple lines of evidence, concludes that there is also an absence of potential PFAS sources in the area surrounding the other three elementary schools; Cannonsburg, Crestwood, and Lakes.

Based on the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' (MDHHS) review of available toxicity information for MeFOSAA<sup>1</sup>, the health effects associated with MeFOSAA exposure are similar to those seen with perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) exposure. Given that PFOS and MeFOSAA have been shown to have similar health effects, and MeFOSAA has no available screening levels at this time, it is reasonable to use the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 70 parts per trillion (ppt) Lifetime Health Advisory (LHA)

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<sup>1</sup> Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 2018. Draft Supporting Document for Epidemiological Studies for Perfluoroalkyls. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service. <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxProfiles/tp200-s.pdf>

for PFOS as an initial estimate for MeFOSAA. The concentration of MeFOSAA in the East Rockford Middle School water supply (15 ppt) is well below the EPA LHA of 70 ppt.

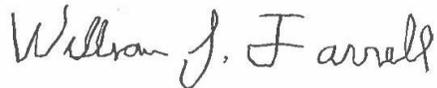
Based on the available information, the MDHHS concludes that there is no apparent public health hazard. However, the MDHHS recommends that Rockford Schools continue monitoring of the East Rockford Middle School water supply to confirm the low-level presence of this chemical.

The ERMS supply well will be sampled quarterly to monitor the groundwater trends over time.

The DEQ and MDHHS will continue to monitor the North Kent PFAS Investigation and will communicate any change or potential concerns that might arise.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions.

Sincerely,



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Department of Health and Human Services  
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