



CITY OF
Sturgis
MICHIGAN

130 N. Nottawa
Sturgis, MI 49091
(269) 651-2321

Contact: Andrew Kuk
E-mail: akuk@sturgismi.gov
Office Phone: (269) 651-2321

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BIG HILL LANDFILL PFAS TEST RESULTS

STURGIS – As part of ongoing monitoring of the perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) the City of Sturgis conducted a routine, annual test on groundwater at Big Hill Road Landfill in 2019. While all results reported that PFAS contaminants were below the current water quality standards, test results for one PFAS contaminant based on proposed changes to State standards has led the City to complete further voluntary testing in an effort to be proactive. City of Sturgis municipal drinking water is not impacted by these test results.

PFAS are a group of industrial chemicals that have been used world-wide in common consumer products and manufacturing processes. The two PFAS contaminants with current standards monitored by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS).

On October 31, 2019 a City-contracted consultant sampled water from the Big Hill Landfill groundwater treatment system at three locations and tested for PFAS. Results of the tests were received in late November. At the first testing location, tests showed PFOA levels of 11.5 parts per trillion (ppt) and PFOS levels of 5.15 ppt. At the second testing location, results showed no detection of PFOA or PFOS. Finally, testing at the outfall water being discharged from the treatment pond showed PFOA levels of 4.1 ppt and no detection of PFOS.

EGLE currently has two water standards that they monitor and enforce related to PFAS that impact the City of Sturgis. The first is a standard for water quality related to surface water; this is the standard which is most relevant to the Big Hill Road Landfill site, as water from the treatment pond at the site discharges to surface water at an outfall. The water quality standard for discharge to surface water is 12,000 ppt for PFOA and 12 ppt for PFOS.

The second standard for water quality is related to drinking water. Currently the State of Michigan has adopted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) criteria of 70 ppt for PFOA and PFOS combined. The State is currently in the process of approving drinking water standards for seven PFAS contaminants including PFOA and PFOS. These proposed standards are significantly more restrictive, set at 8 ppt for PFOA and 16 ppt for PFOS. The Big Hill Landfill site is not a drinking water site and groundwater from the site does not impact the City's municipal drinking water system.

The October Big Hill Landfill results were all well below current standards for surface water discharge as well as the EPA drinking water criteria. However, with the State currently in the process of approving new drinking water standards, State agencies and the City used the proposed standards to review the test results and determine if further action was needed. One test result, PFOA at the first testing location, came in above the proposed standard for drinking water and prompted discussion. After review, while no further action was requested by the State, the City voluntarily expanded testing to three additional monitoring wells on City property south of the previous test sites.

The additional sites were tested on February 19 and results were received March 9. One testing location returned results of PFOA at 10.4 ppt and PFOS at 5.3 ppt. The second test site

returned a result of PFOA at 7.2 ppt. All other tests for PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS contaminants returned no detection.

Further action has been delayed due to COVID-19, but given the test results compared to the proposed standards, the City is once again voluntarily expanding its testing to thirteen private drinking water wells south of Big Hill Landfill property on Big Hill Road that have the potential to be impacted. These tests are being conducted as a precautionary measure and property owners and residents of these locations have been contacted directly by the City. If you have not been contacted you are not located in the testing area. These wells are not part of the City's municipal drinking water system and City of Sturgis water customers are not impacted.

The City continues to monitor water quality of the municipal drinking water system, as well as surface water discharges from the wastewater treatment plant and Big Hill Landfill treatment system. Results of testing will continue to be shared through the City's Facebook page (facebook.com/sturgismi) and website (sturgismi.gov/pfas). More information on PFAS can be found on the State of Michigan's dedicated website, michigan.gov/pfasresponse.

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