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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BIG HILL LANDFILL PFAS TEST RESULTS RECEIVED

STURGIS – As part of ongoing monitoring of the perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) issue, the City of Sturgis in coordination with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) over the past several months conducted tests on groundwater at Big Hill Road Landfill. All results reported that PFAS contaminants were below the water quality standards set for surface water discharge.

PFAS are a group of industrial chemicals that have been used world-wide in common consumer products and manufacturing processes. Two PFAS of concern to the MDEQ are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS).

On October 23rd, 2018 a City-contracted consultant sampled water from the Big Hill Landfill groundwater treatment system and tested for PFAS. This was a voluntary test by the City. Results of the test were received in late November and showed that PFOA levels at 8.87 parts per trillion (ppt); MDEQ's water quality standard for PFOA discharge to surface water is 12,000 ppt. PFOS levels were reported at 2.16 ppt; MDEQ's water quality standard for PFOS discharge to surface water is 12 ppt.

Following reporting of these results to the MDEQ, the State requested a follow-up test be conducted at Big Hill Landfill outfall. The initial sample was taken on untreated water from a production well on the landfill site. The second sample requested by the MDEQ was collected

on outfall water being discharged from the treatment pond at Big Hill Road Landfill to the surface waters of the area.

A City-contracted consultant collected the second sampling from Big Hill Landfill on January 9, 2019. Results were received in early February. The results showed PFOA levels at 5.9 ppt and a non-detect result for PFOS. Once again these are below the MDEQ's water quality standards set for surface water discharge.

At this point, all PFAS testing completed by the City of Sturgis on the City water system, wastewater treatment plant, and Big Hill Landfill have returned results for contaminants below MDEQ water quality standards. The City will continue to monitor water quality of the municipal drinking water system, as well as surface water discharges from the treatment plant and Big Hill Landfill treatment system. Future test results will be provided 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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