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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sturgis Awaiting PFAS Test Results

STURGIS – Recent discoveries of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) contamination in groundwater and drinking water in several communities across Michigan have brought PFAS to the forefront of drinking water safety both in the state and across the country.

PFAS are a group of manmade chemicals that have been widely used in industry and consumer products since the 1950s which have been classified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as emerging contaminants. Although there is more to learn, in recent years experts have become increasingly concerned by the potential effects of high concentrations of PFAS on human health.

In May of 2018, the State of Michigan and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) sent a letter to all community water supply owners and operators throughout the state, including the City of Sturgis, detailing their statewide initiative to test drinking water from all community water supplies for PFAS as a precautionary step.

As part of the testing process, each county in the state was placed into one of four priority levels (Very High, High, Medium, & Low); St. Joseph County is a Medium sampling priority county. MDEQ took samples from the City's municipal water system on October 5th and testing results are expected to be received sometime in November.

Previous testing of City wells for PFAS found that they were not detectable at the testing limit set by the EPA at the time. In 2015 the City was required by the EPA to test all wells for six PFAS compounds. Two samples were collected from each municipal well, one in February and one in August of 2015. Results for all six compounds from both samples in all municipal wells were below the reporting limits of the test.

The City of Sturgis is proactively communicating information regarding the PFAS issue. The results of the MDEQ's testing will be made public when it becomes available, as well as any other pertinent PFAS information. Please watch local media, the City's website, and the City's Facebook page for future news on PFAS as it relates to the City of Sturgis. For more information on PFAS and the State of Michigan's response to the issue, you can visit the State's PFAS response website at www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse. More information from the City of Sturgis can be found at www.sturgismi.gov/pfas.

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