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CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
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NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS
WATER, OCEANS, AND WILDLIFE
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Congress of the United States
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November 12, 2021

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

This letter is being sent to re-enforce the urgent need for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to designate the Gelman Sciences 1,4-dioxane (dioxane) plume site in Ann Arbor, Michigan, to the Superfund National Priorities List. Last week, Scio Township announced the discovery of new dioxane contaminated residential drinking water wells after recent testing north of the designated plume area. This news is alarming and strongly suggests the plume is expanding within the environment and throughout the surrounding communities.


As you may be aware, the Gelman Sciences site is currently under evaluation by the EPA. Gelman Sciences was a medical filter manufacturer and unregulated waste at the site led to a harmful dioxane plume that is now estimated to be four miles long and one mile wide. Over the years, it has polluted our lakes, our creeks, our residential and city municipal water supply wells.

In July and September of 2021, out of real concerns of the plume spreading, Scio Township began testing on its own using a testing method which detects dioxane below 1 ug/L. Out of the 19 wells it sampled they identified 2 new locations with low levels of dioxane present and an additional site that had previous detections under the state-funded testing program. One of the confirmed sites is located a significant distance north of the plume's current estimated boundary area. The Township now plans to sample approximately 15 additional residences in November.

The Ann Arbor and surrounding communities have been faced with this growing dioxane plume for decades. The testing and new confirmed dioxane results in Scio Township are most concerning. On behalf of my constituents, we urge the EPA to closely examine these results and factor them into the EPA's ongoing evaluation process of the Gelman Sciences' site. It is our joint responsibility to swiftly protect the public health and environment from these toxic carcinogens that now appear to be spreading further northward through the groundwater.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter and consideration of this request. I stand ready, along with our state and local leaders long impacted by the Gelman Sciences dioxane plume, to assist the EPA in any way moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Dingell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable Debra Shore, Region 5 Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer, Governor, State of Michigan

The Honorable Liesl Eichler Clark, Director, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy

The Honorable Christopher Taylor, Mayor, City of Ann Arbor

The Honorable Will Hathaway, Supervisor, Township of Scio

The Honorable Gregory Dill, Administrator, Washtenaw County