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July 21, 2021

Low Impact PFAS Site Identified in Elk Rapids

On July 16, 2021, the Key II Industrial Building at 603 Bridge Street in Elk Rapids was listed by the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) as a PFAS site. Representatives from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) held an informational meeting with local government officials and the Health Department of Northwest Michigan regarding a “low impact” Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) site discovered in the Village of Elk Rapids.

Local officials learned that the site, is considered a “Tier 3” site which means there would be “no likely impact to people.” Because the majority of the Village of Elk Rapids is served by a municipal water system and groundwater flows to the east, away from any shallow drinking water wells, there is no possibility of drinking water contamination. For more information about the Key II Industrial Building Site and PFAS, go to the MPART website at michigan.gov/pfasresponse or call the State of Michigan Environmental Assistance Center at 1-800-662-9278.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of man-made chemicals that include perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). PFAS have been used globally during the past century in manufacturing, firefighting and thousands of common household and other consumer products. These chemicals are persistent in the environment and in the human body – meaning they don’t break down and they can accumulate over time. In recent years, experts have become increasingly concerned by the potential effects of high concentrations of PFAS on human health.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties. For more information, visit nwhealth.org.

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