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Riverview Trenton Railroad NW Area Update

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Thu, Aug 24, 2023 at 4:00 PM

To: Stacie Smith <stacie@cbi.org>, Brandon Chambers <bchambers@cbi.org>, Brian Webb <cityofriverviewbra@gmail.com>, Jim Wagner <jimwags@gmail.com>

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Good afternoon,

This email is to provide a summary and update to the Community Advisory Group (CAG) regarding site conditions and response actions at and near the Riverview Trenton Railroad property in Wayne County. Please forward this email to CAG contacts as appropriate.

First, EGLE approved with modifications the RTRR Interim Measures Workplan (Workplan) that was submitted on June 29, 2023 (See attached letter). Both the Workplan and the approval with modifications letter should be posted to the EGLE McClouth Website under the Northern Portion Corrective Action (+) Tab by the end of this week. As required by the review letter, RTRR submitted a revised Workplan on August 16, 2023, that is under review.

Second, as was communicated to CAG leadership last week, on August 16th, EGLE Materials Management Division (MMD) staff were conducting field work nearby and observed pooled water along the train tracks north of West Jefferson. Attached are photos that were taken north and south of the roadway. A small area of the pooled water north of West Jefferson was tested using a pH strip and the pH was between 11-12 SU. The other areas further north tested neutral (approximately 7 SU).

EGLE MMD contacted Mark Fletcher of RTRR (copied on this note) to discuss the observations and inform RTRR that they must prevent migration from their property. RTRR visited the site and reviewed the construction details of the recently completed rail crossing, and at this time does not believe the high pH water pooled north of West Jefferson is coming from their property. EGLE MMD will soon provide RTRR with a review comment and approval letter for the revised Workplan mentioned above that will also document the current conditions and obligations to demonstrate impacted groundwater is not migrating from the RTRR property. Although RTRR believes the source of the high pH water north of the roadway originates elsewhere, they understand the community is concerned and is considering near-term actions such as onsite pumping in an effort to understand and potentially impact groundwater flow.

EGLE MMD also met with the Michigan Dept of Health and Human Services and the Wayne County Health Department on August 24, 2023, to discuss hazards associated with the observed water north of the road. The Wayne County Road Department is working to place signage in the area that will alert citizens of the possible hazard.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions and EGLE MMD will provide further updates at the CAG meeting in September.

Thanks,

Elizabeth

Elizabeth Garver

Enforcement Section

Materials Management Division

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy

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4 attachments



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