



March 13, 2018

House Appropriations – Department of Environmental Quality Subcommittee
Senate Appropriations – Department of Environmental Quality Subcommittee
Lansing, Michigan

Re: Request for boilerplate language – mapping of contaminated aquifers

Dear Committee members,

Almost half of Michigan residents get their drinking water from groundwater aquifers. More and more often, drinking water across Michigan is being threatened by chemical leaching from contaminated property into the groundwater. At this time, the state has not attempted to gather information regarding these contaminated aquifers in any comprehensive manner. The Michigan Environmental Council thinks this undertaken would be a good investment for Michigan's future and efforts to protect public health.

The state has a data base of approximately 3000 contaminated sites and 7000 sites where leaking underground storage tanks were identified in the past. Information on groundwater contamination is currently available from the following sources:

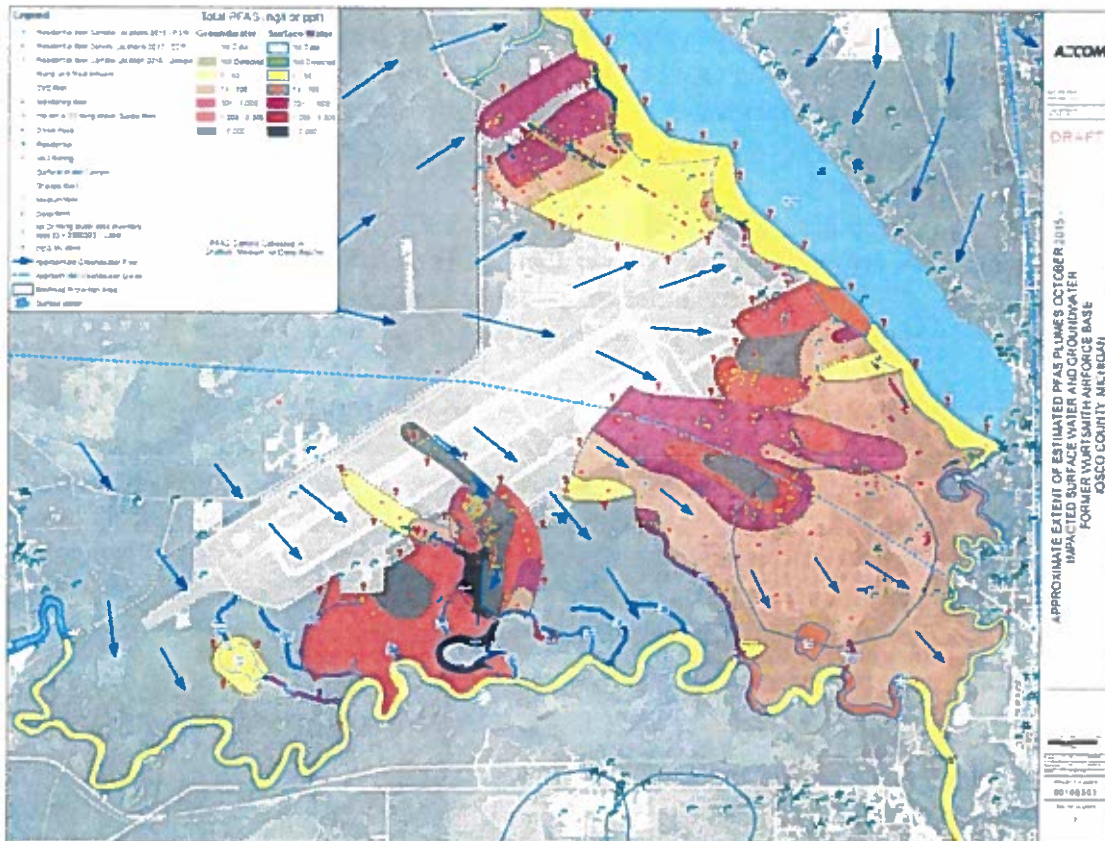
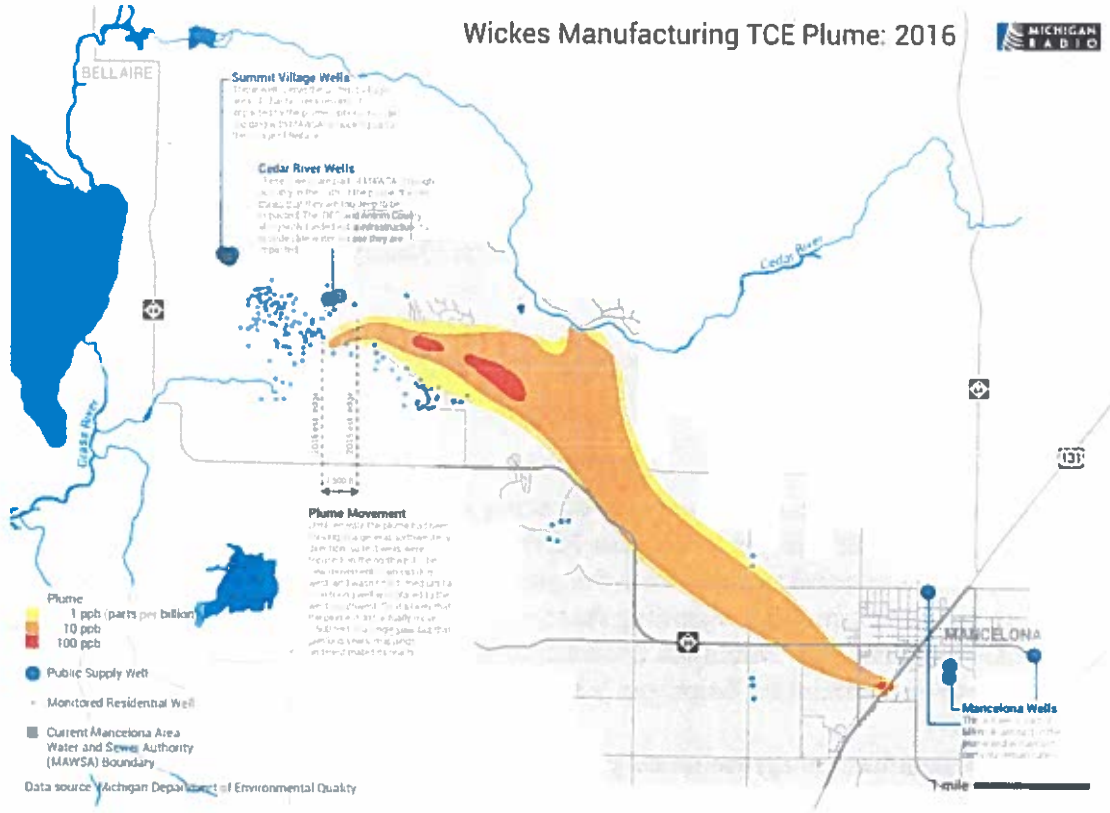
- Studies conducted by a party that is responsible for contamination at a site.
- Studies conducted by the state with public funds to characterize the extent of groundwater contamination at a site.
- Studies conducted by parties not responsible for the contamination involved in redevelopment efforts.
- Notices of migration of contamination sent to both the department and adjacent property owners by a property owner that has knowledge that contamination has migrated off their property under the property of adjacent property owners.
- Studies conducted as part of the wellhead protection program.

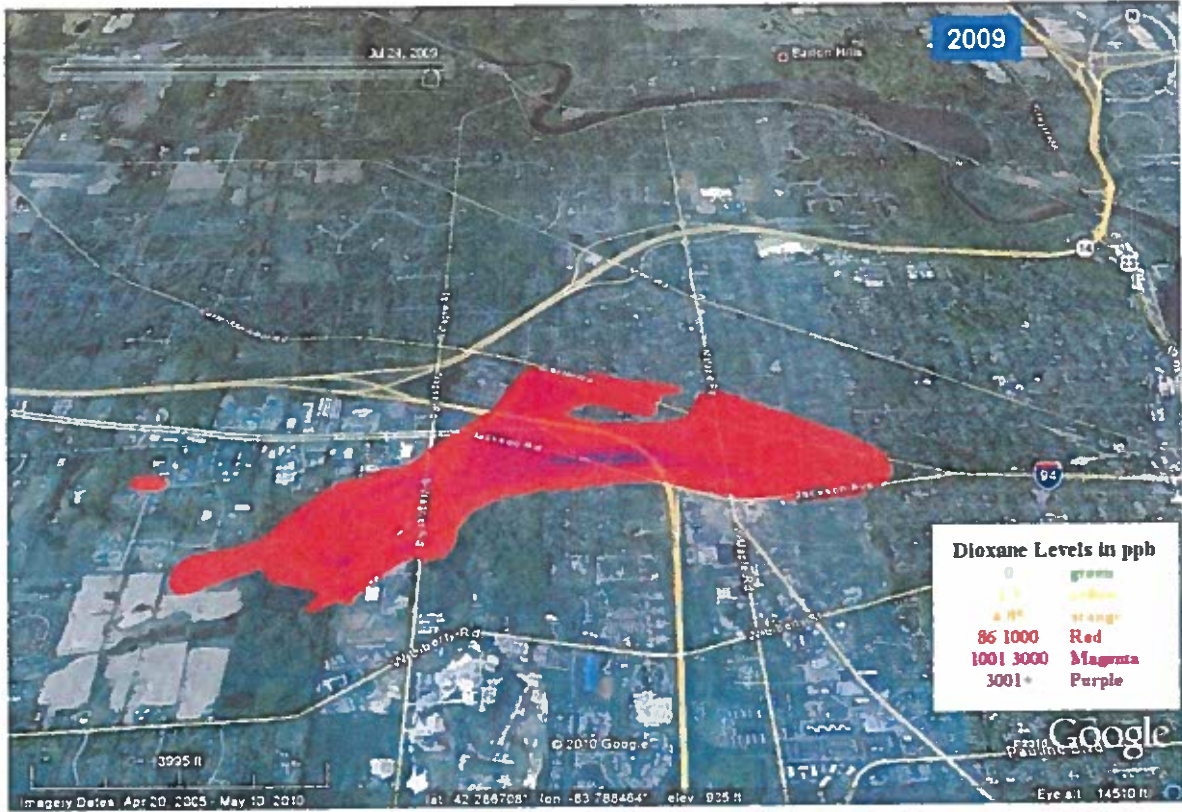
We realize that creation of this data base would be a multi-year effort and would not be perfect, with limited information being available on many sites. However, we think the public interest in knowing the number and extent of these contamination problems would bolster public support for cleanup in general, allow people to make informed decisions about property acquisitions. In addition, it would assist regulators in efforts to minimize the risk of contaminated drinking water wells going undetected, of vapor intrusion into buildings, or surface water venting that may exposes members of the public to contamination.

Sincerely,


James Clift, Policy Director

Wickes Manufacturing TCE Plume: 2016





Dioxane plume – Ann Arbor