



EPA to Connect Affected Homes to Municipal Water

Allegan Well Water Contamination Site
Allegan, Michigan

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For more information

If you have questions about the groundwater investigation in Allegan, please contact these EPA team members:

For General Questions

Charles Rodriguez

Community Involvement Coordinator
312-886-7472
rodriguez.charles@epa.gov

For Technical Questions

Tricia Edwards

On-Scene Coordinator
734-692-7687
edwards.tricia@epa.gov

Brandon Pursel

Project Manager
Land and Chemicals Division
312-353-9229
pursel.brandon@epa.gov

Other contacts

For Health-Related Questions

Allegan County Health Department
269-673-5411

To Request Connection of a Property to Municipal Water

Chris Tapper

269-673-5511 ext. 223

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to hook up 4 homes on 29th Street and Jeffrey Drive to the public water system this summer. EPA will pay for hooking up homes to the public water main, as well as the cost to close each home's private water well.

The connection to public water is necessary to protect residents from chromium contamination in the groundwater, which is the underground fresh water source for private wells. EPA is conducting the work under emergency authority granted by federal law.¹

Owners of neighboring properties with private wells—where chromium contamination was either not found or found in low levels—can also request to be connected to municipal water at their own expense.

Once connected to the public water supply, customers will receive a monthly water bill from City of Allegan. Bills will be based on the amount of water used during the previous billing cycle. For information on City of Allegan Water services and rates, see www.cityofallegan.com.

Previous Sampling

A fire in 2015 at a nearby factory was put out by using a high volume of water. This event sparked concerns about the groundwater quality in the area, which prompted the Allegan County Health Department to increase well water sampling in the area. EPA also conducted well water sampling at properties in the nearby area in August 2017. The results of the water sampling conducted by both agencies revealed that 2 private drinking water wells were affected by the chromium contamination.

Next Steps

EPA's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act program will investigate the source of underground water contamination and any other remaining issues at the facility where the chromium is believed to have originated.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will continue to support response efforts by monitoring drinking water until the concentrations of chromium return to safe levels. MDEQ will also assist with groundwater monitoring, which is done by sampling test wells that were installed specifically to keep track of groundwater quality throughout the area.

¹This response action will be conducted in accordance with Section 104(a)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), better known as the Superfund law, 42 U.S.C. Part 9604(a)(1), and 40 C.F.R. Part 300.415 of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan.

What is Chromium?

Chromium is a naturally occurring element found in rocks, animals, plants, and soil. It can exist in several different forms. Depending on the form it takes, it can be a liquid, solid, or gas. No taste or odor is associated with chromium compounds.

- Chromium-0 is the metal form of chromium, and is used for making steel.
- Chromium-3 is an essential human dietary element.

Chromium-6, also known as hexavalent chromium, is used for chrome plating and dyes, among other uses, and is of concern due to its negative effects on human health. Chromium-3 can convert into Chromium-6, which is the reason why EPA and MDEQ test for total chromium in drinking water.

For questions about potential health effects of exposure to chromium, please contact the Allegan County Health Department at 269-673-5411. In addition, the federal Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry publishes a factsheet on chromium, which you can view at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts7.pdf

You can also find more information from EPA on chromium in drinking water at the following website:
www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water



Residents may soon see construction work like this taking place on Lincoln Road, 29th Street and Jeffrey Drive to connect 4 homes to the public water supply.