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August 6, 2018

RE: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), EightCAP Ionia County Outreach Office

Dear Community Member:

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has begun a statewide initiative to test drinking water from all schools that use well water and community water supplies. According to the MDEQ, the purpose of the test is to detect a group of manmade chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). MDEQ is taking this precautionary step of testing these drinking water sources to determine if public health actions are needed. EightCAP participated in this initiative which included having water samples tested from the well at its Ionia County Outreach Office (5827 Orleans Road in Orleans). This facility houses the agency's Orleans Head Start Center, program intake offices, meeting facilities, and other staff offices.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set a lifetime health advisory (LHA) level for two PFAS in drinking water, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). The LHA level is 70 parts per trillion (ppt, equal to 70 nanograms/Liter) for PFOA and PFOS combined, or individually if only one is present. The EPA has not set health advisory levels for other PFAS compounds. The State of Michigan is using 70 ppt for decision-making purposes.

The water supply at EightCAP's Ionia County Outreach Office was tested by AECOM, MDEQ's contractor. The test results can be found on the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team website, www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse. The results are also posted at the Ionia County Outreach Office and on the EightCAP website, www.8cap.org. EightCAP received the test results on August 3, 2018. Among other things, the results show that:

- no detectable levels of PFOA nor PFOS were found in the water;
- a PFAS compound, PFBS, was found in the water at a level of 180 ppt;
- a PFAS compound, PFHxA, was found in the water at a level of 2 ppt; and,
- the combined level of PFAS compounds in the water supply at this facility is 182 ppt.

The EPA has not set LHA levels for PFBS nor for PFHxA. EightCAP is working with the MPART and the Ionia County Health Department to address the presence of these compounds in its Orleans facility's water supply. EightCAP will provide bottled water for drinking and cooking immediately, will work with water treatment professionals to discuss long-term measures to reduce the levels in the water supply, and other measures as more information becomes available about these compounds. In addition to a second test to verify the initial results, the agency will

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also continue to monitor the levels on at least a quarterly basis and cooperate with the MDEQ with regard to additional water testing and the MPART investigation. EightCAP is committed to providing our clients, students, and staff with quality drinking water, and is working closely with MDEQ and the Ionia County Health Department to do so.

Individuals concerned about exposure to PFAS should contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' Toxicology Hotline at 800-648-6942. Anyone seeking direct one-on-one assistance or referral to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality network of technical staff should call 800-662-9278 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday. You can also send an email to deq-assist@michigan.gov.

For information on PFOS, PFOA, and other PFAS, including possible health outcomes, the MDEQ is directing individuals to the following websites:

- State of Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) website serving as the main resource for public information on PFAS contamination in Michigan:
www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) website including basic information, USEPA actions, and links to informational resources: www.epa.gov/pfas
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) website including health information, exposure, and links to additional resources: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Petersen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daniel Petersen
President, EightCAP