

Notice to Almaena Township Residents: KL Landfill Plume

Update: Recently, Almaena Township officials learned from the City of Kalamazoo that traces of a contaminant were detected in some residential wells in the area near Fish Hatchery Road and Sunset Drive in Almaena Township. The source of the contaminant is the KL Landfill in Kalamazoo County, an EPA “Superfund” site under federal laws.

Background and Resulting Plume: Between 1955 and 1979, the KL Landfill was owned and operated by a number of private and public entities in Kalamazoo County. Disposal of chemical, manufacturing, sanitary and municipal waste occurred until 1979, when the landfill was closed after contaminants were discovered in nearby residential wells. Well testing showed that contaminants had leached from the landfill into the groundwater, emanating a plume from the site.

Chief Contaminant: **1, 4-diethylene dioxide (also known as 1, 4-dioxane; dioxane)**

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear liquid chemical• Easily dissolves in water• Used in chemical manufacturing• Non-binding with soil, causing groundwater plume	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short-term exposure-nausea, drowsiness, headache and irritation• Long-term exposure-dermatitis, eczema and liver and kidney damage• MI DEQ safe drinking water level = 7.2 parts per billion
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- US Department of Health and Human Services states dioxane is “reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen.”
- EPA has classified dioxane as “likely to be carcinogenic to humans” by all routes of exposure.

Almaena Township’s Response: Almaena Township is actively researching possible remedies and actions to protect the best interests of its residents. Communication with responsible cleanup groups (such as the KLA Group) and local and state agencies indicates several initial options, including possible extension and connection to the City of Kalamazoo water system and potential residential well replacement into deeper aquifers. Further expert advice is being sought regarding viable options.

News and Information: For more information about the KL Landfill, cleanup efforts and agency involvement, visit www.westklavelandfill.com and the Kalamazoo Public Library (a public record keeper for the KL Landfill site). For local updates on Almaena Township actions and involvement, please visit www.almenatownship.org or call 269.668.6910.