



CITY OF OTSEGO

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From the Office of the City Manager

September 21, 2018

*****IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Dioxin Test Results

The City of Otsego tested for a full-panel of Dioxins along with some rarely found PCBs on September 7th for all 3 municipal wells. This testing procedure was designed to be identical to the testing that was recently conducted on the private wells out in the townships. We are confident that we accomplished our goal with the assistance of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Allegan County Health Department (ACHD) and Allegan County Administration. We have received those results and are pleased to report that of the three wells we had 2 non-detects, which means no dioxins were measured. And we had 1 well with the slightest trace of Dioxins. After analysis by the MDEQ and MDHHS, they have calculated that to a Toxic Equivalency (TEQ) of less than 1. In fact it is at 0.092. So very, very small. The MDHHS used a health protective US EPA threshold of 12 parts per quadrillion (ppq) TEQ before any recommendations would be made, which puts our 0.092 ppq-TEQ well below any advisory level. When possible we will add these test results to our website alongside the others. MDEQ is still continuing to do additional methodology validation with the laboratory, which could take some time but they are confident the 0.092 ppq-TEQ result will not change.

I know questions will still exist about this process and the results in particular. If you have any questions at all relating to the City of Otsego testing procedures or results please feel free to give me a call at City Hall. If you have any questions or concerns specifically about Dioxins please call the Allegan County Health Department Hotline at 269-686-4546. They have a great team answering questions on all parts of the investigation taking place out in the township private wells.

In closing I would like to thank everyone for their patience through these trying weeks as we waited until we received results. I think the City is better for it. We now know exactly what is in our drinking water. I believe the testing we have gone through has been more rigorous than any municipality in the state. And after all of that testing, we know that Otsego has clean drinking water.

Sincerely,
Aaron Mitchell
City Manager