



**For Immediate Release**

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## **City of Lowell Receives All-Clear on Municipal Water** *Voluntary Testing Reveals Non-Detect Levels of PFAS*

**Lowell, Michigan, February 5, 2018** – The City of Lowell conducted an unscheduled test of the City’s municipal water on DATE with test results showing non-detect levels of PFAS.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, are man-made chemicals commonly found in industrial and commercial fabrics and cleaners and has been linked to adverse health effects in humans. Varying amounts of the emerging contaminants have been detected in the nearby City of Rockford, Plainfield Township and Algoma Township, prompting the City of Lowell to proactively test its water system.

The City tested its four municipal wells, each one coming back as non-detect for PFAS. The City of Lowell’s water treatment and filtration plant treats an average of 589,000 gallons of water daily for more than 1,300 customers in the City of Lowell, Lowell Township and Vergennes Township.

“In light of concerns in our neighboring communities, we felt it was important to give our residents peace of mind about their drinking water,” said City Manager Mike Burns. “This testing was voluntary and outside of our normal testing regimen. We are very pleased that test results showed our drinking water continues to be safe and clean.”

In 2003, the City of Lowell, Lowell Township and Vergennes Township developed a Wellhead Protection Program designed to protect the municipal drinking water. The Department of Environmental Quality officially recognized and approved the program in 2005. The Wellhead Protection Program assists local communities utilizing groundwater for their municipal drinking water supply systems in protecting their water source. A WHPP minimizes the potential for contamination by identifying and protecting the area that contributes water to municipal water supply wells and avoids costly groundwater clean-ups.

“As Michigan continues to investigate PFAS contaminations, the City of Lowell is committed to providing quality drinking water to our residents,” Burns said. “We will continue to test our water to ensure the highest quality and compliance with all state and federal standards.”

The City joins the growing statewide conversation around PFAS. On Nov. 13, 2017, Gov. Rick Snyder created a task force – Michigan PFAS Action Response Team – to address the growing concern of PFAS contamination in Michigan. The task force is responsible for identifying and launching the clean-up of PFAS contaminations sites, develop long-term solutions to provide safe drinking water and establish outreach in affected communities.