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IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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EGLE and Health Officials to brief East Bay Township residents on PFAS investigation near Cherry Capital Airport and U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Grand Traverse County Health Department's Environmental Health Division (GTCHD) will host a virtual town hall on Monday, October 26, 2020 to brief East Bay Township residents on the state's investigation into perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination of groundwater near the Cherry Capital Airport and the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station in Traverse City.

In recent years, the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) began investigating sources and locations of potential PFAS contamination to protect drinking water supplies. In this case, the investigation was carried out because PFAS-containing firefighting foam, or aqueous film forming foam (AFFF), was used at Cherry Capital Airport and the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station for training purposes.

The Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) has alerted residents who live in the Pine Grove neighborhood in East Bay Township (located north of Parsons Road, south of Munson Avenue, west of Three Mile and east of Airport Access Road) that drinking water wells may be contaminated due to the discovery of PFAS in groundwater.

Most homes in the neighborhood are connected to East Bay Township municipal water system and are not at risk of PFAS exposure from their drinking water. East Bay Township's municipal drinking water system has been tested multiple times by EGLE over the past two years and consistently shown no PFAS detections. But, there are approximately 20 homes and one business that have drinking water wells. There are approximately seven more residences that have irrigation wells.

EGLE, GTCHD and MDHHS will be reaching out to the homeowners and the business owner in the area of concern to seek permission to sample their wells. Sampling will occur shortly after the October 26 virtual town hall. As a precaution, bottled water will be made available to those who live in the affected area and are using their own well for drinking water.

The virtual town hall will take place on Monday, October 26, 2020 at 6:00 pm. MPART representatives from EGLE, MDHHS along with GTCHD will update residents of the continuing investigation of PFAS contamination in private drinking water wells near the Cherry Capital Airport and U.S. Coast Guard Air Station.

The October 26 meeting is planned as an online event, rather than an in-person meeting to comply with current state measures designed to suppress the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

To view or participate in the online meeting, visit Michigan.gov/PFASResponse and click on the Public Meetings button, then select the *East Bay Township Area* Virtual Town Hall Meeting link found on the calendar on October 26. After the presentations, there will be an opportunity for attendees to ask questions online.

Individuals without access to the internet will be able to call in to participate in the meeting by calling this number, 1-248-509-0316, and entering the access code, 683 359 495.

You can learn more about PFAS and responses to potential contamination on the MPART website:
<https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse>

More about PFAS exposure and the associated health risks can be found at:
https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/overview.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.atsdr.cdc.gov%2Fpfas%2Foverview.html

Any questions regarding wells or drinking water in areas near the Cherry Capital Airport and US Coast Guard Air Station should be directed to the Grand Traverse County Health Department's Environmental Health Division at 231-995-6051.

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