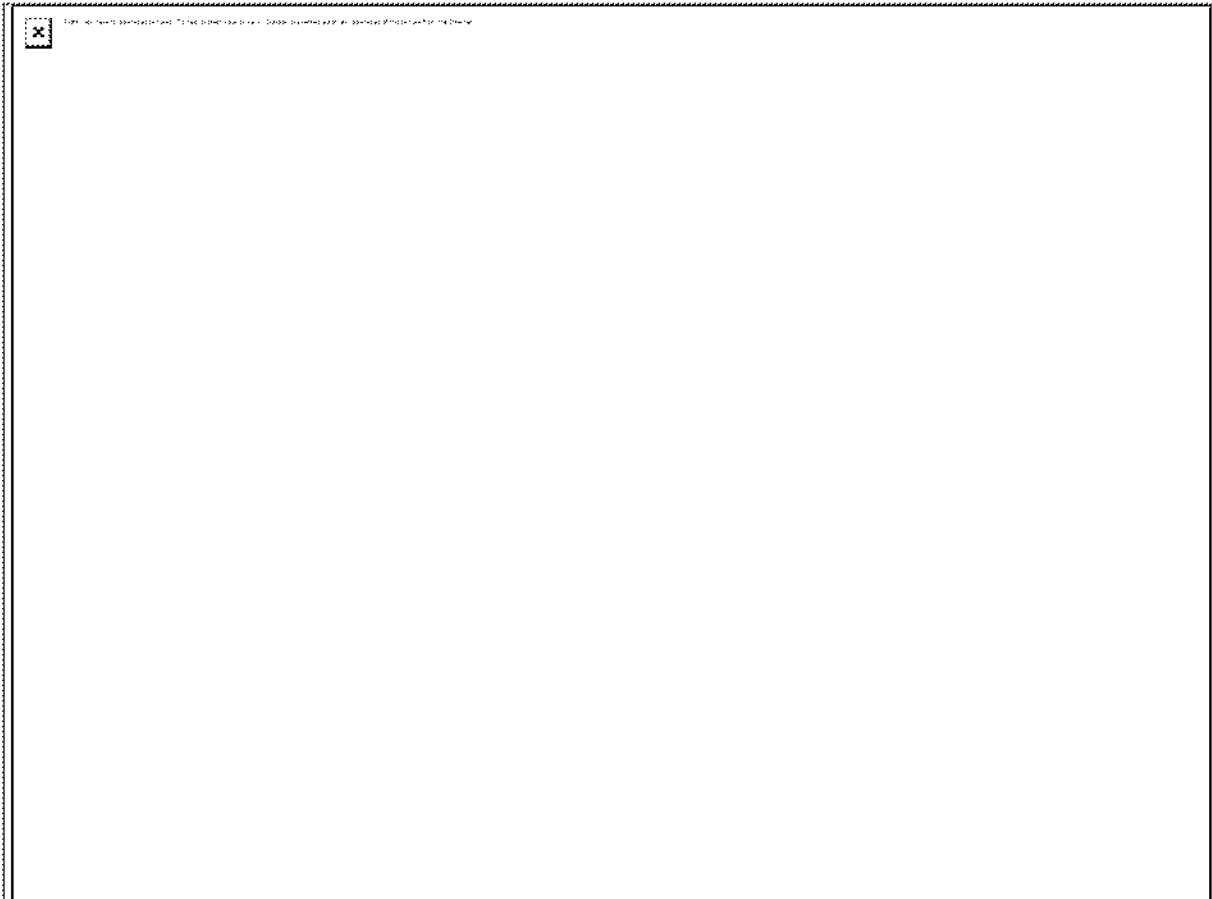
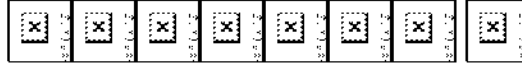
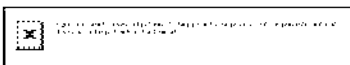


From: Chris Kolb, Michigan Environmental Council <chris@environmentalcouncil.org>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 1:42 PM
To: Sygo, Jim (DEQ)
Subject: How air toxics rule changes fail public health | Michigan Environmental Report

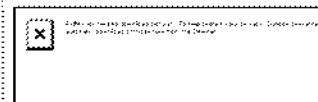
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October 30, 2015 | Michigan Environmental Report



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Dear Jim,

The Flint water crisis puts a spotlight on public health and the critical role our state's laws and regulations -- and how they are put into practice -- play in protecting the health of Michiganders.

Last week Governor Snyder appointed me to serve on the after-incident review task force regarding the Flint water issue. Ken Sikkema and I will serve as co-chairs. The Governor was very clear that he wants us to find out what happened and why, and how to prevent any similar situation from occurring in the future. The task



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force will make recommendations to the administration, including and not limited to, whether laws and regulations need to change and whether there are practices that need to take place in water systems across the state. We are determined to shine a bright light on this unacceptable tragedy and provide much needed answers.

This week is National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, and our blog post on the Flint water crisis covers why lead in drinking water is so significant. It gives an overview of the situation in Flint, along with policy changes needed now to restore public trust.

Also this week, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's proposed air toxics rule change is now open for public comment. It's our position that companies using chemicals -- and reaping the financial benefits of that use -- should bear the burden of demonstrating they are safe before emitting them into the air we breathe. Instead, the draft rule transfers to those living next to a factory the risk that the chemicals emitted can cause cancer or have other negative health consequences. This change is not acceptable.

When an emergency happens, it's an important and serious duty to review what went wrong and recommend what can make it right. It's even more important to fix our systems -- laws, regulations, and practices -- to protect public health in the first place.

Day in and day out, that is what we work to do at the Michigan Environmental Council.

Sincerely,

Chris Kolb
President

Michigan Distilled

Flint water crisis: Policy changes needed to restore public trust

In what has become a national news story and a full-fledged public health emergency, state officials now acknowledge that unsafe drinking water has exposed children, pregnant women and other Flint residents to dangerous levels of lead. Our blog post identifies some measures the state should take as soon as possible.

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Air Pollution