



PFAS Committee Update

March 2024

Hello Lake Margrethe Property Owners,

I'm writing today to give you an update on the efforts the LMPOA board is making to accelerate the PFAS cleanup process in and around our beautiful lake.

As you know, due to chemicals used at Camp Grayling years ago, we have PFAS contamination in the lake and in the well water at some of our homes. These PFAS contaminants are considered "forever chemicals" because they are extremely difficult to remove from the soil and ground water. They are also harmful to human health.



Lake Margrethe

We've known about this issue for seven years now and ever since its first announcement, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) has said it is going to clean it up. Unfortunately, actions speak louder than words. They have, to date, done nothing to clean up the contamination and stop the continued flow of PFAS.

Last year, your LMPOA board grew tired of the DoD's empty promises and decided to increase its communication efforts to get our voices heard. We formed a special PFAS Committee with seven residents, five of whom are members of the LMPOA board. Those members are: John Alef, Ray Basile, Mike Bushre, Bob Wilson, Kerry Clough, Mary Jo Ring and myself.

Rest assured, we are working as hard as we can to represent you and your interests in this human health and environmental matter. Part of our communication plan is to keep you well informed. We'll make suggestions as to what you should do to protect you and your loved ones. We'll request your help in raising awareness of the issues. And we'll keep you up to date on our successes and our losses as we move through the tedious process of getting the Federal Government and its military departments to do the right thing.

Chuck Spencer
President, LMPOA

Actions Taken Since July 2023

Your LMPOA PFAS Committee developed a communication plan and has worked diligently to raise awareness of the environmental issues surrounding our beautiful lake. Here's what's been done since July 2023:

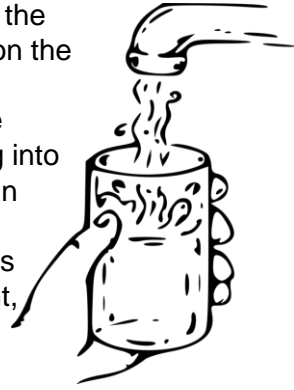
- Made official statements with our concerns and requests at each of the last three Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings. These meetings are attended by all stakeholders in the Grayling PFAS cleanup, including the Army National Guard (ARNG) and Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA).
- Began developing strong relationships with both our state and federal elected officials. In addition to direct calls with their staffs, we've also written to them three times with updates on the roadblocks we are encountering.
- Wrote on December 11 to Major General Paul D. Rogers with the ARNG and DMVA, along with Colonel Scott Meyers with the ARNG at Camp Grayling.
- Wrote on February 16 to The Honorable Brendan Owens, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment, along with Col. Michael Price, Senior Deputy Director of State Operations and Director of Strategic Planning with the DMVA.
- Sponsored the showing of a documentary called, "No Defense" at the Rialto Theater and held a community conversation afterward to answer questions.
- Initiated communications with the media to ensure they hear our concerns.

LMPOA Top Priorities with U.S. Department of Defense

While we still haven't seen any action from the military, we do believe we are making progress. Here are the areas we are focusing on:

Clean Drinking Water

This is our No. 1 priority, as this is the biggest health threat to residents on the lake. We are asking the DoD to step up and financially support the municipal water line that is coming into Grayling this summer. Two areas in Grayling will have clean drinking water by 2025, thanks to the efforts of Grayling Township. At this point, the extension of that water line to Lake Margrethe is not funded and we feel the DoD should step up and provide the necessary funding.



Stop the flow of PFAS contaminated water coming from two storm drains

There are two storm drains near the boat launch at Camp Grayling. The water flowing from them has high levels of PFAS contamination. The good news is that this area was added to a list of 30 Interim Actions identified by the DoD on February 6th to get prioritized for cleanup in the 2024 Fiscal Year. If they follow through on their recent promise, both of those drains should stop flowing into the lake by the end of Summer/Fall 2024.

Stop the flow of PFAS contaminated water coming from the old incinerator area

We recently learned there is yet another area by the lake at Camp Grayling causing a plume of contaminated water to flow toward Borchers Way homes and into Lake Margrethe through the shallow ground water. While we are saddened about this news, we are also angry that the only action planned for this year is "more testing." We want the DoD to stop the bleeding. Instead of wasting more time testing, we want them to get to work and stop the problem from getting worse.

Change two Military Policies related to Well Water Testing

There are two policies we would like the DoD to change to speed up clean-up efforts and reduce costs both in Grayling and nationally.

- **Accept well water testing results from reputable state organizations.**
- **Plan accordingly to remediate to the new EPA proposed safe drinking water standard of 4 ppt vs. the current standard of 70 ppt.**

What you can do...

Get your well water tested

The **Michigan Department of Health and Human Services** has been contacting residents around the lake about testing the water that is coming from your well. We recommend you take advantage of this and find out now if your water is safe to drink.

If you were out of town when the DHHS wanted to schedule a testing, you can call the Drinking Water and Environmental Sampling Unit Hotline at 844-934-1315 to schedule an appointment.

The **Department of the Army** is also planning to conduct well water testing this spring. That organization has sent out Right-of-Entry letters to homeowners in areas where they want to test. While the form is complex and full of confusing legalese, we urge you to sign the form. Bottom line -- they will simply send a contractor to walk to your outdoor faucet and take a water sample.

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