For Immediate Release
February 7, 2020

PFAS Townhall in Pellston on Wednesday, February 12

Pellston, MI — The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and the Health Department of Northwest Michigan will be holding a townhall meeting at the Pellston High School Auditorium on Wednesday, February 12. An open house and time for questions will be held from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., with the presentation from 6 to 7:15 p.m. and time for additional questions after. Pellston residents are encouraged to attend to receive information and ask questions about per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in the area.

PFAS substances were found in drinking water in the Pellston area. Some residents in the area will be contacted early next week by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy requesting permission to test their water. According to Scott Kendzierski, Director of Environmental Health at the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, “at this point, we are still waiting on lab results to determine the amount of PFAS present and in what area(s). Protecting the community and our residents is of the utmost importance to our agency. We are currently working with our state and local partners so that we can provide guidance and resources to residents as accurately and quickly as possible.”

EGLE has conducted water sampling around Pellston for some water services that serve the public – the Pellston Elementary School, Middle/High School and Pioneer Professional Building – and to date, no detectable levels of PFAS have been found at those locations.

For additional information about PFAS, visit michigan.gov/pfasresponse/.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties. For more information, visit nwhealth.org.

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Area residents are invited to attend a community meeting about PFAS contamination in the area. State and Local agencies will be on hand to provide information and answer questions from residents.

Please note that drinking water at Pioneer Professional Building, Pellston Elementary and Middle/High Schools was tested for 14 PFAS substances. The drinking water at these locations did not detect any of the 14 PFAS included in the test.

If you are not able to attend the meeting, but would like more information, please contact Randy Rothe - EGLE at 989-217-0083 or the or Scott Kendzierski - Health Department of Northwest Michigan at 231-547-7651.