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FREEMAN CHEMICAL CONSULTANT REVEALS

SAUKVILLE DRINKING WATER SAFE,

WHILE SOME SHALLOW GROUND WATER MAY BE CONTAMINATED

PORT WASHINGTON, WI...The Village of Saukville's municipal wells, used for drinking water, are clear of contamination. However, expected localized contamination in shallow ground water has been confirmed through recent testing according to an interim report filed with the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The report was written by Olver Incorporated, Consulting Engineers and Environmental Laboratories.

George H. MacDonald, President of Freeman Chemical Corporation, said that the study which confirmed the suspected contamination has as its primary objective, "to protect Saukville's municipal wells, the sources of local drinking water. Our consultants found areas in which shallow ground water was contaminated under and near the Freeman plant. Freeman will now proceed to clean up this contamination before it has an opportunity to affect the deep water municipal wells", MacDonald said. MacDonald emphasized that the contamination was in shallow monitoring wells and not in the wells supplying drinking water. The drinking water wells continue to be uncontaminated, the study reported.

The hydrogeologic assessment and remedial action program which is testing shallow and deep ground water is being done in cooperation with the State DNR which approved the 4-phase plan in April of 1983. The program is being jointly financed by Freeman Chemical and Waters Instruments Incorporated, the ~~former~~ owners of Northern Signal Corporation, the company that was formerly located at the site of what is now a warehouse owned by Laubenstein Roofing and Siding Company. The four phases include preliminary hydrogeologic assessment, ground water flow evaluation, testing of the shallow ground water protection system and deep ground water resources evaluation. "Our plan is proceeding according to schedule which includes this preliminary report to the DNR", MacDonald said. The first three phases of the study are expected to be completed by late Spring of 1985.

According to consultant Dr. Roger F. Hatcher, who filed the report, areas of shallow water within the Freeman plant site which showed heavy concentrations of contamination are the water under the tank farm, the truck scale and the site of an old dry well which was previously reviewed and documented by the DNR. One of the contaminants found was trichloroethylene. Freeman Chemical has not, and does not, use trichloroethylene, according to MacDonald, who suggested that this substance may have seeped into

the shallow ground water from the former Northern Signal plant. "This is why both companies are cooperating fully with the DNR in this program", MacDonald said. Other compounds detected were ethyl benzene, xylenes, toluene, benzene and styrene.

Consulting hydrogeologist James Dawson said that the flow of the contaminated shallow ground water is "to the east, and there are some indications of water flowing to the northwest".

To begin the second part of the second phase of the testing and remedial action program, Olver Incorporated will temporarily seal and test the well in the Laubenstein facility beginning Monday, July 16. "The reason for this, is that the casing around the Laubenstein well is not sealed, and surface water might be carrying contaminants into the ground water system", Dr. Hatcher stated. If this well is found to be a primary source of the contamination problem, it will be permanently sealed," he said.

During the week of July 16, Olver will also install three withdrawal wells to determine their effectiveness in removing contaminated water. Once they are proven effective, the plan calls for the installation of additional withdrawal wells. According to Dr. Hatcher, the water removed through these withdrawal wells may be treated in Saukville's local sewage treatment plant and should significantly reduce the amount of contaminants in the shallow ground water.

MacDonald said that Saukville President Paul Miller is being kept informed of all developments related to the testing and clean-up program. He further stated, "The problem we are working to solve has developed over 35 years of operations on our site. The ground has been contaminated during years when there were no regulations or standards governing contamination because no one understood the potential problem. Until recently, sophisticated testing and measuring instruments were not available to monitor trace amounts of contamination. The importance of what is happening today is that we are monitoring Saukville's drinking supply water quarterly. We are watching potential contamination levels as closely as possible, and are committed to keeping the drinking water free of contamination. Our program with the DNR is on schedule and we will continue with it until any potential for drinking water contamination is eliminated," MacDonald said.

MacDonald said in addition to testing the Laubenstein well and installing the withdrawal wells, sophisticated regular quarterly testing and monitoring procedures will be continued by Olver.