



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
KALAMAZOO DISTRICT OFFICE



AARON B. KEATLEY
ACTING DIRECTOR

June 27, 2023

VIA EMAIL

David Rindfield, Director of Public Works
P.O. Box 147
Saint Joseph, Michigan 49085

Dear David Rindfield:

SUBJECT: Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
Individual Permit No. MI0060199
Designated Name: St Joseph Twp MS4-Berrien

This letter is to remind you of the importance of keeping pet waste out of the storm sewer system in St. Joseph Township facilities. St. Joseph Township has several storm drains that move storm water directly from ground surfaces to Waters of the State, including the St. Joseph River, which has a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) restriction for elevated levels of E. coli. E. coli is commonly found in fecal matter and can lead to sickness in humans from contact or ingestion. The TMDL sets recommended limits for all potential sources of E. coli to reduce the levels found in the river to protect the users of the resource and any waters it flows to, including Lake Michigan. Beaches along the lake are routinely closed if local health departments find potentially harmful levels of E. coli in the water.

The residents in your community can have a direct effect on improving surface water quality by decreasing the amount of waste from pets that goes into waterways. By picking up after their pets, they will be helping St. Joseph Township reduce its footprint of E. coli that goes into the St. Joseph River and eventually Lake Michigan. The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) recognizes that waste collection bags have been provided in Township owned areas, which is very helpful on this mission. We encourage you to continue spreading knowledge of this issue to residents and inform them of the effect they can have not only on their community, but also on the health of the Great Lakes. Thank you for your efforts.

Should you require further information, please contact me or Matthew Hanauer, Kalamazoo District Office, EGLE, Water Resources Division (WRD), at 269-330-9631; HanauerM@Michigan.gov; or EGLE, WRD, 7953 Adobe Road, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009-5025.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Klang, District Supervisor
Kalamazoo District Office
Water Resources Division
269-568-2697
KlangJ@Michigan.gov