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Media Release

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For Immediate Release

SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW

1415 N. Harrison – Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant

August 16, 2016, Kalamazoo, Michigan – The City of Kalamazoo Department of Public Services personnel became aware of an overflow from the Water Reclamation Plant located at 1415 North Harrison on August 16, 2016 from 12:58 am to 7:50 am.

The Department of Public Services Wastewater Division staff has made corrective actions returning the plant to normal condition. The amount of partially treated wastewater released to the Kalamazoo River is estimated to be 572,222 gallons. City staff is assessing the impact to the surrounding area and the Kalamazoo River between Paterson Street Bridge and D Avenue Street Bridge.

At this time, the City of Kalamazoo Department of Public Services in cooperation with the Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department are advising all persons to avoid contact around the affected areas, which includes the Kalamazoo River from Paterson Street Bridge to D Avenue Bridge. All surface water activities including swimming, wading, fishing, canoeing, and kayaking should cease. It is also recommended that all persons avoid these areas and keep pets and children away until the area is assessed and remediated. If contact with partial treated wastewater is made, avoid spreading and tracking and clean and disinfect shoes, clothes, and skin thoroughly. This advisory will remain in effect until further investigation and sampling indicates that risk has been minimized. Additional information will be available after sampling results are received.

Please call the Department of Public Services at (269) 337-8768 with questions related to the release.

As required by law, Water Reclamation Plant personnel notified the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality at the Kalamazoo District Office and the Kalamazoo County Environmental Health and Community Services of the spill.

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