



March 17, 2022

RE: Important 2022 Washtenaw County Pollution Prevention Program Update

Dear Owner/Operator:

This time each year, the Washtenaw County Health Department mails your facility a packet of Pollution Prevention Program information, including reporting status sheets and an invoice. **This letter is to alert you to an important change in the Pollution Prevention Program for 2022.**

Since 1986, the Washtenaw County Pollution Prevention Regulation has required local businesses that store or use toxic, hazardous, or polluting substances to handle these materials safely, to report annually to the Washtenaw County Health Department, and to be inspected if the facility exceeds a certain volume of material.

This regulation, while novel when it was created, was last updated over 25 years ago, in 1994. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, our staff had begun reviewing the regulation in anticipation of updates. Due to current staffing levels and the length and intensity of our pandemic response, we are not able to conduct a thorough review and engage the community for valuable feedback while continuing to implement the current regulation. I have therefore requested and been granted a “pause” of the Washtenaw County Pollution Prevention Regulation by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners at their March 2, 2022, meeting.

The Washtenaw County Pollution Prevention Regulation is paused for a period of up to 2 years (potentially March 4, 2024), including submission of reports, status sheets, and fees, and performance of routine inspections.

During this pause, your business is not required to submit status sheet updates or reports to the Washtenaw County Health Department. Instead, we encourage you to use this time to consider updates to the program from your perspective. Program information can be found at www.washtenaw.org/p2.

During this pause, you are still responsible for past due fees for services in 2021 and prior. If your business owes fees, an invoice is included with this letter.

During this pause, the Washtenaw County Health Department will not be performing routine facility inspections. Instead, our staff will review the current regulation and look for gaps and duplications in the local, state, and federal regulatory framework. We will also engage community members, partners, and our regulated businesses to find out what aspects of the program they feel are important to protect their employees, their environment, and their community.

The Washtenaw County Health Department will continue to investigate complaints and emergency situations and follow up on issues that may need enforcement during this pause. We are also available for any questions that may arise at your facility.

Over the coming months, I would like to invite you and your staff to provide feedback on your thoughts on the regulation. I would like to hear more about what aspects you feel are important to the health and safety of our community and what can be improved. Our goal is to establish an updated regulation that serves to protect public and environmental health in today’s world.

Enclosed is a website and QR code to a short survey to get your initial feedback on the current Pollution Prevention Regulation. Please take this short survey and share with all staff to also get their feedback. Please post/share the enclosed survey information with your employees. I also plan to send out a future communication on more formal engagement sessions. Feedback can also be submitted to the email address: P2Program@washtenaw.org.

Thank you for your time and please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kristen Schweighofer
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Pollution Prevention Program Survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P2ProgramSurvey>

