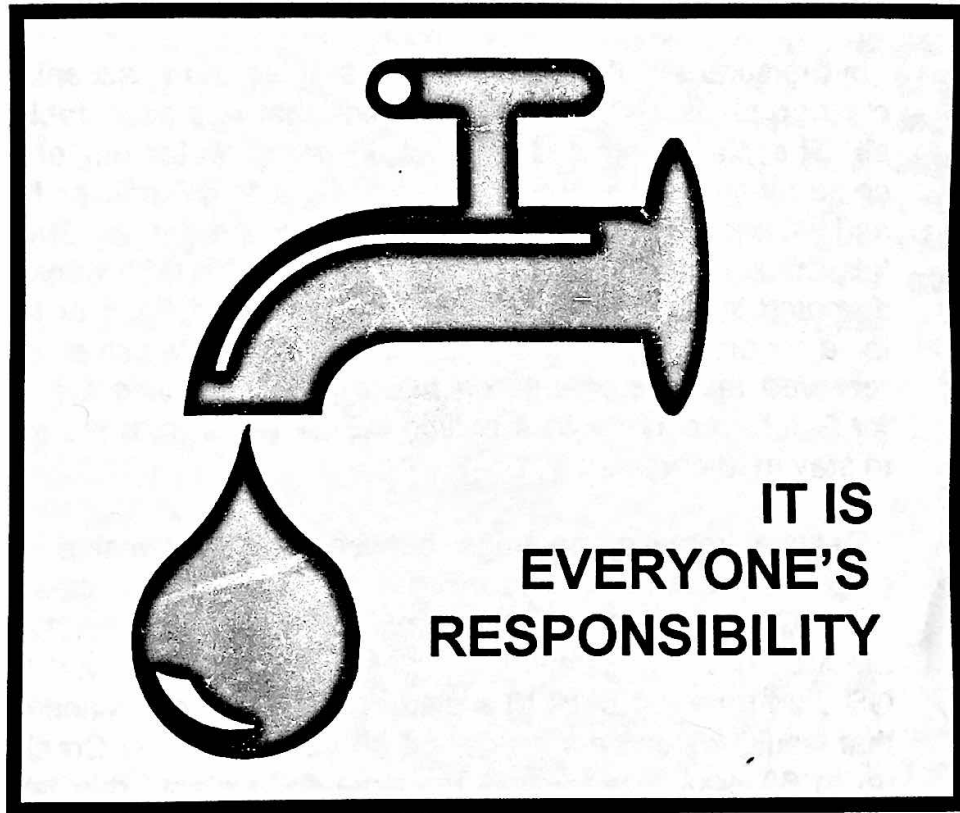


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**LEARN THE SIMPLE FACTS  
ABOUT THE FUTURE OF YOUR  
WATER SUPPLY**



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**SCIO RESIDENTS FOR SAFE WATER**

## BACKGROUND

Between 1968 and 1986, Gelman Sciences used about 800,000 pounds of 1,4-dioxane, a compound resistant to conventional biodegradation, to manufacture their filters. At least 64,000 pounds of the chemical escaped their biological treatment ponds, spray irrigation fields and incineration pit, contaminating underlying groundwater. By 1988 GSI calculated that over 8 billion gallons of contaminated water would have to be pumped and treated. A carcinogen on the MDEQ's critical registry of toxic substances, 1,4-dioxane is 100% soluble – allowing it to travel with water and remain in the environment for decades. The resulting plumes are now over two miles long and have already contaminated more than 70 commercial and residential wells.

In the summer of 1995, after years of forcing unacceptable cleanup plans, GSI negotiated a plan that was acceptable to all. The plan promised GSI would pump water out of the contaminated core area plumes, treat it to 77 ppb or less, and reinject it back into the contaminated aquifers. Should this "flushing" action fail, only then would GSI consider dumping the 1,4-dioxane into Honey Creek at 3ppb or less. In a coordinating agreement with Scio Township, GSI received tax abatements on future growth, paving the way for GSI to receive a \$1.4 million MEGA grant from the state to stay in Michigan.

Despite regular meetings between GSI, township and citizen representatives to discuss progress on the cleanup plan, GSI broke their 1995 promises. In early October 1996, the MDEQ made public three documents that showed that GSI had reverted back to a plan abandoning reinjection and that would instead discharge 1,4-dioxane to Honey Creek at up to 60 ppb. Even worse than previous plans, this latest plan had no requirement that GSI protect the uncontaminated aquifers that interconnect under Honey Creek along its path between the GSI plant and the Huron River. The MDEQ allowed GSI to back out of the 1995 plan without a single written analysis as to why and also allowed GSI to delete the Special Condition in the Consent Judgment requiring GSI to show its cleanup would protect the pristine aquifers along Honey Creek.

## HOW THE FACTS AFFECT YOU

- 1,4-dioxane is an industrial solvent that is classified as a Class B carcinogen because it is a strong cancer promoter and is suspected as being a cancer initiator.
- 1,4-dioxane is 100% soluble in water and goes wherever water goes. It is highly resistant to biodegradation and would remain in the groundwater for decades. Data shows that both the Honey Creek tributary and the Honey Creek itself lie over the deepest groundwater recharge area in the county.
- Discharging 1,4-dioxane at above 3ppb into the Honey Creek system will be, in effect, an uncontrolled discharge and will put hundreds of pristine wells at future risk of contamination over a decades long cleanup.
- By the incomplete destruction of 1,4-dioxane, worse by-products are created. There is no evidence the MDEQ has provided information concerning what are, how many and how toxic are the by-products found in the effluent purge water resulting from treatment (oxidative destruction) of 1,4-dioxane.
- GSI's current plan puts unnecessary amounts of 1,4-dioxane into the Ann Arbor municipal water supply since Honey Creek empties into the Huron River upstream from the city's water intake.
- School, Township, and County services depend in large part on a stable tax base, and a significant part of the tax base could be adversely affected by a less protective cleanup.
- GSI has already shown that it is capable of treating its 1,4-dioxane pollution to a level of 0-3ppb, and is treating to non-detect at the Evergreen purge well.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO

**Being part of a community living in close proximity to a toxic waste pollution, it is your responsibility to do your share to ensure the safety of your pristine water supply. Act now. This may well be our last chance.**

- \* **WRITE and demand** that they protect our family, health and investment:

Gov. John Engler - State Capitol, P.O.Box 30013,  
Lansing, MI 48909

MDEQ Director Russ Harding - DEQ, P.O.Box 30457,  
Lansing, MI 48909

- \* **Volunteer and share your time with SRSW.**
- \* **If you have any experience in the legal, media and scientific fields, share your expertise and work with SRSW.**
- \* **Letterwriting is crucial.** If you need assistance, call SRSW 761-6064.
- \* **Help raise needed funds** for possible legal action.
- \* **Inform the community** that we need to get the facts out to our neighbors and fellow citizens about the current situation.
- \* **Be a neighborhood contact** and telephone person.
- \* **Letters to the Editor** are very important. The more the better. They are a measure of how the community feels about an issue.
- \* **Form a neighborhood network** and discuss the issues.
- \* **VOTE** for an environmentally responsible Michigan Legislature

**Citizens have always wanted a safe and speedy cleanup. In 1993, citizens determined that a discharge of 3ppb or less was protective of our water supplies and was both economically and technically achievable. This position has been supported by official resolution by Scio Township, Washtenaw County, and most recently by the City of Ann Arbor. In 1995, the 3ppb limit was adopted by Gelman Sciences. In 1996, Gelman Sciences unilaterally abandoned reinjection and the 3ppb limit for discharge to Honey Creek. In 1997, the whole community needs to actively work together and ensure that our pristine aquifers are protected. Talk to your family, your neighbor, your friends. Help us find ways to make Gelman Sciences do as they promised in 1995.**

**\* \* \* \* \***

**SRSW is a nonprofit organization established to inform and educate Scio Township residents on the state of ground water pollution in Scio Township; to coordinate the efforts of citizens with the Township, county, State and other organizations and take whatever actions it deems necessary to protect ground water quality and prevent negative impacts of ground water pollution on the Township and its citizens.**

**For more comprehensive information on the Gelman Sciences Pollution of Scio Township, please contact any Ann Arbor Public Library and ask for the repository of information on this issue. Or call the SRSW message hotline at 761-6064 or write to SRSW, P. O. Box 97, Dexter, MI 48130.**