

Wolverine Worldwide responses for Detroit Public Television / Great Lakes Now

“ Our Commitment

Wolverine Worldwide’s commitment to helping our friends, family, and neighbors address water quality issues in the area has never wavered. From the start, we’ve taken proactive, aggressive actions to ensure all affected residents have access to safe drinking water. In addition, we have worked closely with U.S. EPA, MDEQ, and other regulators to test sites for the presence of PFOA and PFOS, two of the chemicals contained in 3M Scotchgard™ used in Wolverine’s legacy operations. Most recently, we’ve taken legal action against 3M, which profited for decades from the manufacture and sale of Scotchgard™ to Wolverine and millions of others, yet refuses to take responsibility for the consequences.

What We’ve Done

From the start, Wolverine has taken proactive, aggressive actions to ensure all affected residents have access to safe drinking water, including:

- Sampling more than 1,500 residential wells for chemicals contained in 3M’s Scotchgard™ product
- Providing highly effective water filters to over 700 homeowners, which are proven to eliminate PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS substances
- Monitoring over 500 whole house filters and resampling the water in those homes, some as often as weekly
- Offering bottled water to every home being sampled
- Conducting thorough environmental investigations at its House Street and Tannery properties – including drilling over 70 monitoring wells and collecting and analyzing over 1,350 soil samples, 350 groundwater samples, 100 sediment samples, 100 soil gas samples and 14 surface water samples
- Designing and installing a filtration system at its former Tannery, to capture and treat groundwater before it reaches the Rogue River
- Meeting weekly with the State of Michigan and other regulators to review and analyze this data
- Committing over \$30 million to these efforts directly benefiting our community

Litigation Response

At the same time Wolverine continues to work tirelessly on behalf of our community, we have repeatedly said that we will vigorously defend ourselves against litigation and take aggressive action to ensure that all involved parties – including 3M and our insurers – take responsibility for this matter. Most recently, for example, Wolverine filed a lawsuit in federal court against 3M, which developed, tested, manufactured and sold Scotchgard™ to Wolverine and millions of others for decades, but has repeatedly refused to accept any responsibility for the impacts of Scotchgard™.

One topic that has come up is a Plainfield Township plan to extend its municipal water system to certain homes in the area. Wolverine has said from the start that we intend to be part of developing water quality solutions for our community – and our actions to ensure that all affected residents have access to clean water have backed up these words. Whether those solutions include the extension of municipal water to certain homes, and whether Plainfield Township or a different entity would be the supplier, however, has not yet been determined. Those decisions will be based on facts and data that are still being gathered, as well as discussions with regulators and other involved parties – not through rhetoric and grandstanding by Township officials.

Finally, we firmly believe all involved parties – including 3M – must be involved in discussing and developing solutions. Far from representing a change in position, as Township officials have claimed, this has been Wolverine’s position from the start, which we have expressed publicly, privately, and in court by suing 3M and our insurers.

View on PFAS-Related Legislative/Regulatory Proposals

As a manufacturer of footwear with more than 135 years of history in Michigan, Wolverine Worldwide remains committed to working with state and federal agencies to comply with any and all applicable regulations. The media has reported various legislative and regulatory proposals to change the 70 ppt level used by the U.S. EPA and the State of Michigan. We are not involved in these decisions, nor have we taken any position on these proposals. ”

- WOLVERINE WORLDWIDE