

**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2003 2:56 PM

**Subject:** MORE ON WASTE WATER SPRAYING -- ADDITIVES CAUSE LEACHING OF SOILBOUND METALS

Hi Bergis;

This article is another article providing an argument for concern of waste water spraying. I found it interesting that the additives caused leaching of metals otherwise bound to the soil. That's a new one for me.

Warmest regards,  
Alfie

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## Waste water spraying raises concerns

**Milk producer looks to resume practice after two-year lull**



CHRIS HOLMES/Lansing State Journal file photo

How it's done: Kevin Bodensteiner, plant manager at Michigan Milk Producers Association Wastewater Treatment Facility in Ovid, shows water in stages of cleanup. With the plant, MMPA plans to resume spraying waste water onto nearby fields.

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OVID - The possible resumption of the spraying of waste water onto nearby fields by the Michigan Milk Producers Association has some area residents anxious.

Spraying waste water from the MMPA's Ovid plant onto two fields three years ago brought complaints about foul odors and possible ground water contamination.

Under an agreement with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, spraying in that area was halted in 2001 and MMPA built a \$6 million treatment plant that it hopes will clean up the water before it is discharged onto the fields.

The intent was to resume spraying this spring, but Kevin Bodensteiner, the MMPA plant manager, said that's not a certainty.

"We don't know what's going to happen," he said. "We are talking with the DEQ about some options I'm not at liberty to disclose."

In the meantime, elevated levels of dissolved cadmium, lead and iron were discovered in monitoring wells on the fields.

The metals occur naturally in the soils, said Tim Benton, Lansing District supervisor for the DEQ's water division.

Additives in the MMPA waste water, however, made them soluble and allowed them to travel through the soil and into the ground water, causing concern about potential contamination of drinking water from shallow wells.

No actual contamination of drinking water has been found, Benton said.

To alleviate fears, MMPA has offered to drill deep wells for half a dozen residents.

Area resident Kathy Bond-Raines isn't sure that's enough and is the lone holdout on accepting the offer.

"How do I know the deep well won't produce salty water or water with iron in it?" she asked. "I never had that problem with my old, shallow well."

Bond-Raines said she has other concerns about what might happen if spraying resumes.

"There will be allergy problems," she said.

"They will be spraying on a field where nothing grows but weeds."

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### On the Web

- Michigan Milk Producers Association: [www.mimilk.com](http://www.mimilk.com)

She fears there could be a negative effect on property values, citing a nearby 1.4-acre parcel that hasn't had an offer since it went up for sale.

Another neighbor, Clyde Isham, said he thinks MMPA has tried its best to resolve the problems.

"They have been more than helpful as far as I am concerned," he said. "They have always been gentlemanly and honest with me."

Like his neighbors, he is concerned about whether the odor that drove people indoors or out of the area will return if spraying resumes.

"They say everything that created the smell has been taken out of the water," Isham said.

"If they can do that, I have no problem."

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