

Environment & Energy

# Michigan Orders Flint Chemical Company to Stop Polluting River

By Zach Bright

Sept. 20, 2022, 1:00 PM

---

---

- Lockhart violated state environmental law, order says
  - Must remediate wastewater system to continue use
- 

Michigan's top environmental regulator ordered a Flint chemical company to stop using a defective wastewater system found to be leaking and polluting the Flint River.

The order, issued Monday, alleges that Lockhart Chemical Co.'s facility violates the state's Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. Pollutants found in the Flint River near Lockhart match the facility's wastewater, according to an analysis by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

The company manufactures performance additives for better surface protection including sulfonates, emulsifiers, rust prevention additives, corrosion inhibitors, and additives for metalworking fluids and greases.

Lockhart's facility has led to "direct and indirect discharges into the waters of the state of substances that are injurious or may become injurious to the public's health, safety, and welfare and the environment," the order reads.

## Transporting Wastewater

The environmental department, working with the state attorney general's office, is requiring the company to transport its wastewater to Flint's water treatment plant in tanker trucks until it has fixed its faulty underground piping.

"I made a promise to the residents of Flint that I will not stand by and allow any entity to endanger the health, safety or welfare of the community, and I am keeping my promise," Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel (D) said.

Flint became the center of national attention a decade ago after the city switched its drinking water supply from Detroit's system to the Flint River in a cost-saving move. Inadequate treatment and testing of the water led to a series of water quality and health issues for residents.

The state Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy had communicated extensively with Lockhart about how to come into compliance, according to the order, but Lockhart failed to correct the “vast majority” of violations.

The order adds that the Lockhart facility “long-running history of problems with operations and maintaining compliance with environmental protection laws.”

Lockhart Chemical didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

To contact the reporter on this story: Zach Bright at [zbright@bloombergindustry.com](mailto:zbright@bloombergindustry.com)

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Chuck McCutcheon at [cmccutcheon@bloombergindustry.com](mailto:cmccutcheon@bloombergindustry.com)

## Documents

Order  
[Order](#)

## Topics

wastewater  
surface water  
drinking water  
environmental remediation

© 2022 The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc. All Rights Reserved