



July 30, 2014

Antrim County Board of Commissioners
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RE: ACUTE proposal to address the Wickes TCE plume in Antrim County

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay (TWC), in support of Antrim County United Through Ecology (ACUTE)'s proposal to address the Wickes TCE plume contamination in Antrim County. TWC advocates for clean water in Grand Traverse Bay and its nearly 1,000 square mile watershed. The Wickes Plume, which is within our watershed, is a substantial threat to drinking water supplies and downstream water bodies, and the ACUTE plan is the only viable proposal to limit the adverse impacts of the Plume.

In the short-term, the ACUTE plan ensures a reliable drinking water supply for the region. The project provides storage and reduced pumping at the Cedar River Well Field, installation of a new well field upstream of the plume, and infrastructure to connect the new supply to potentially affected areas. The ACUTE proposal distributes the financial burden of this project between the state (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality), end users (Mancelona Area Water and Sewer Authority), and Antrim County tax-payers. Considering the historic investment in ensuring safe drinking water for the region, and the county-wide benefits of the project, we hope Antrim County commits the remaining \$250,000 towards this project.

In the long-term, ACUTE continues to explore remedial options to address the Wickes Plume. We recognize the Wickes Plume is extensive and relatively fast-moving, and provides challenges to using traditional remedial systems. But ACUTE is exploring and experimenting with remedial alternatives that may reduce long-term threats from the Plume to downstream waters, and TWC supports those continued remedial efforts.

In short, the Wickes Plume is a broad, regional threat, and the ACUTE plan provides a reasonable, achievable solution. We ask that you support this plan and commit \$250,000 to the project. Thank you for your consideration, please contact me if you have any questions or to discuss our comments.

Respectfully,

Christine Crissman
Executive Director

July 30, 2014

Letter in Support of ACUTE Wickes TCE Plume in Antrim County

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cc: **Antrim County Board of Commissioners (via email):**

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