

Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency

April 22, 2013

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“No Contact” Health Advisory Issued
Sewage Discharge Advisory for St. Joseph River
Broadway Street in Three Rivers to Constantine Dam**

Three Rivers, MI. Officials of the City of Three Rivers Clean Water Treatment Plant have notified the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency (CHA) that the sanitary sewer river crossing at Broadway St. in Three Rivers became submerged due to flooding and began discharging sewage at a rate of 900 gallons per hour since 10:00 am on Sunday, April 21, 2013. Clean Water treatment plant staff members have been unable to stop the discharge. A “No Contact” Health Advisory is in effect until further notice from Broadway Street to Constantine Dam.

Action taken. Persons are advised to avoid any body contact with the St. Joseph River South of Broadway sanitary sewer manhole to the Constantine Dam, in Constantine. This advisory includes any body contact with the river for activities such as swimming, canoeing or fishing. Water sampling is scheduled to occur this week. Please note that numerous infectious diseases can occur in people when they come in contact with sewage discharges and this advisory has been issued as a precautionary measure to protect the public’s health. **This advisory is in effect until further notice.**

Future Action. The CHA is currently notifying local newspapers, radio stations and providing information via the internet to get the word out to citizens as rapidly as possible about this advisory. The health agency will continue to monitor this situation until conditions return to normal. The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency urges all residents to use caution when using local waterways due to sewage spills and storm runoffs related to recent heavy rains.

The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency offers additional information concerning waterborne illnesses on its website under the Frequently Asked Questions button. Go to www.bhsj.org to learn more.

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