

CITY OF DETROIT

News Release

Water and Sewerage Department

Dave Bing, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DETROIT COMPANY ORDERED TO CEASE DISCHARGE INTO SEWER

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) has ordered a company in north-central Detroit to cease the discharge of materials into the sewer system until further notice.

Complaints of a “solvent-like” chemical smell in sewers in the Brush-Canfield and Boston-Edison areas were received Tuesday and Wednesday. DWSD staff investigators traced the source of the odor to Dana Container Inc., 11430 Russell St., Detroit. Investigators ordered the facility to cease discharge into the system, and directed the DWSD maintenance group to flush the sewer lines. The continuing flushing operation has prevented the substance from having a negative impact on nearby areas. DWSD staff has confirmed the elimination of the odor at downstream sewers.

The Dana Container facility is regulated and had been authorized to discharge under a Wastewater Discharge Permit, subject to City ordinance. Today’s Cease and Desist and Permit Revocation Notice from DWSD will remain in effect until the department’s investigation is completed.

Chemical samples of the discharge have been collected and are being analyzed by the DWSD laboratory. The area that was affected, or was likely to have been affected, has the following approximate boundaries: Davison Avenue (north), I-75 (east), Woodward Avenue (west), and Jefferson Avenue (south).

The Department has notified the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) of its action. Dana Container may ask for a hearing to request that the cease-and-desist order be lifted and that its Wastewater Discharge Permit be reinstated.

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) has 24-hour phone numbers for reporting Spills and Dumping Complaints at (313) 267-6000 or (313) 267-9000.

DWSD supplies high-quality drinking water to Detroit and 126 other communities in southeast Michigan. The Department provides wastewater services to Detroit and 76 other southeast Michigan communities.

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