

## **FACT SHEET – INFORMATION FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

We CAN'T REMAIN SILENT and we WON'T STOP until our community is safe!

### **Join the opposition**

Join Michigan Against Atomic Waste Facebook Group using this 3D barcode link



### **What can you do to have your voice heard?**

Go to the TAKE ACTION section on [Michiganagainstatomictwaste.org](https://michiganagainstatomictwaste.org) (follow the link below):



### **DID YOU KNOW?**

#### **History and Facts – Follow the Money:**

WDI/MDWTP was approved by the USACE in 2014 to accept FUSRAP/TENORM

WDI and MDWTP were formerly owned by US Ecology and were acquired as part of an acquisition by Republic Services on 10/30/2021 for \$2.8B

Bill Gates, through his investment firm Cascade Investment LLC, holds approximately 10% of Republic Services

Republic Services (NYSE: RSG) stock has increased 92% from \$134.60 (10/29/21) to \$257.29 (5/30/25) since the acquisition of US Ecology

Republic Earnings in 2024 increased 27% from \$3.929 M in 2020 to \$4.979B in 2024 (Per 10K page 102 – total adjusted EBITDA)

Van Buren Township signed a host agreement with US Ecology in 9/9/09 including royalties in exchange for township capital improvements (ball fields, etc) and agreement to reasonably support and not object to any of WDI's efforts

Van Buren Township has received \$5.5M in royalties since 2019

## History and Facts – WDI/MDWTP:

WDI and MDWTP are separate legal entities but located on the same property at 49350 I-94 Service Drive, Van Buren Township, MI 48111



### WDI's operating license:

- Allows concentration of Radium 226 and Radium 228 up to 50 pCi/g, and concentration of lead 210 up to 260 pCi/g
- Michigan law allows up to 500 pCi/g if authorized by EGLE
- Expired / application was filed 11/5/2021 and is under review by EGLE which allows them to continue operating

### MDWTP operating license:

- Allows UNCAPPED levels of radioactive material and “downblends” to achieve 50 pCi/g before disposal at WDI
- Expired / application was filed 10/31/2017 and is under review by EGLE which allows them to continue operating

Neighboring state Ohio's laws allow up to 5 pCi/g for TENORM disposal.

*WDI accepted 1<sup>st</sup> TENORM shipments in 2006.* WDI started accepting FUSRAP TENORM waste in 9/2017

WDI/MDWTP has a leachate collection system collects water discharges water via permit to Quirk Drain (East/West) and SHVUA (South Huron Valley Utility Authority).

The WDI/MDWTP NPDES Permit MI0056413 does NOT require ANY radiological testing or treatment prior to discharge

Quirk Drain feeds directly into Belleville Lake/Huron River Watershed, which feeds Detroit River, which feeds Lake Erie/Ontario.

Nobody is testing the creeks feeding Belleville Lake, the Lake itself or the Huron River for radionuclides!

SHVUA discharges water via NPDES permit to the Detroit River, which feeds Lake Erie, which feeds Lake Ontario.

Radioactive components come in solid, liquid and gaseous forms and can pose risks depending on their concentration, the form they take and their pathways into the environment or human exposure.

Radium 226, Lead 210 and Radon 222 are all dissolvable in water. Dissolubility increases as water acidity increases (lower pH).

### **Health Risks Examples:**

Radium 226 emits alpha and gamma rays and behaves like calcium in the body, accumulating in bones increasing the risk of **bone cancer**. External exposure can penetrate tissues and damage DNA (causing **generational issues**)

Lead 210 emit beta particles and decays into Polonium 210 which emits alpha particles which **severely damage DNA** and cause **lung cancer**. Lead 210 accumulates in bones, soft tissues and organs.

### **Terms and Definitions:**

**FUSRAP** = Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Plan – federal program USACE (US Army Corp of Engineers) tasked with remediation of radiological contamination from atomic weapons development (aka Manhattan Project)

**TENORM** = Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material. Components are Radium 226, Radium 228, and Lead 210

**WDI** = Wayne Disposal Incorporated

**MDWTP** = Michigan Disposal Waste Treatment Plant

**EGLE** = Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

**Half life** = time it takes for half of a radioactive substance to decay. Radium 226 (1600 yrs)

**NPDES** = National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit program aims to protect water resources by addressing point source water pollution

**NFSS** = Niagara Falls Storage Site – a FUSRAP site in New York State

**MAAW** = Michigan Against Atomic Waste (community opposition group)

**What can you do to help? Spread the word!!!**

### **Western Wayne Town Hall**

Meeting of elected officials to hear concerns or ask questions. Our group will assemble 1 hour prior with picket signs to demonstrate our concerns about WDI/MDWTP in hopes to get media attention and keep pressure to let WDI, elected officials and Judge Cox know we are opposed to this dangerous waste. The town hall is **Wednesday, June 18 at 6:30 pm at Ted Scott Campus (9555 Haggerty Road).**

RSVP required: <https://forms.gle/kmthBoHwzN3UpqJx7>

### **WDI Operating License Renewal:**

WDI is currently applying for a license to expand their nuclear waste capacity.

Michigan EGLE is hosting a **public meeting on Thursday, June 26, 2025 at 6 pm at WCCC Ted Scott Campus (9555 Haggerty Road)** to get public input before granting the permit. They are required to consider environmental justice concerns. The EGLE is obligated to deny a permit if it will cause unlawful impacts to the environment or human health.

### **Lawsuit Against WDI:**

The public learned about 6000 tons of TENORM planned to be shipped to WDI from a FUSRAP site called Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS) from a Detroit Free Press Article on 8/19/24

Belleville and surrounding communities filed a lawsuit (24-013420-CH Judge Kevin Cox) against WDI regarding the radioactive waste and an TRO (temporary restraining order) halted the shipment of waste from NFSS

A 2 day hearing was held on May 19-20 where witnesses were called. The final decision will **be July 1, 2025 at noon at Coleman A. Young Municipal Center (2 Woodward Ave, Detroit) on 19<sup>th</sup> floor in Judge Cox's chambers.**

### **Legislation Changes:**

Senate Bill 246 and 247 are underway to make changes to Michigan hazardous waste laws. Increasing tipping fees, regulatory changes to modernize radioactive waste management plan, establish hazardous waste capacity limits, and prohibit any future hazardous waste facilities in densely populated areas. On Thursday, June 12, 2025 both bills passed the Senate Energy committee (8-3 vote). We need your help to ask ALL elected officials vote for these bills. These bills are common sense and should be bi-partisan. **Visit [stopphazwaste.com](http://stopphazwaste.com) to register as a citizen co-sponsor of the bill to show your support!**

## WDI/MDWTP Statistics:

Since 2020, WDI has buried 649K tons of TENORM, 450K of 649K from FUSRAP.

21% of the Earth's fresh water comes from the Great Lakes

According to EPA's Environmental Justice Data for TOXIC RELEASES TO THE AIR:

- MDWTP is in the 90th percentile for US / 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for Michigan
- WDI is in the 90th percentile for US / 89<sup>th</sup> percentile for Michigan

In 2017, MDWTP took in over 122,000 tons of hazardous waste, 91% of the waste is from out-of-state. It's not even OUR waste!

In 2017, WDI received over 17,000 tons of hazardous waste, 49.3% from out of state.

367,309 people live within a 10 mile radius (US Census Data)

1.8 million people live in Wayne County, Michigan

Adjacent to Interstate 94 (a major freeway connecting Detroit to Ann Arbor)

1/4 mile from Belleville Lake which feeds the Huron River Watershed, the Detroit River and Lake Erie (the source of our drinking water).

Nobody is testing the creeks feeding Belleville Lake, the Lake itself or the Huron River for radionuclides!

Adjacent to Willow Run Airport

Adjacent to Beck fields (community baseball fields)

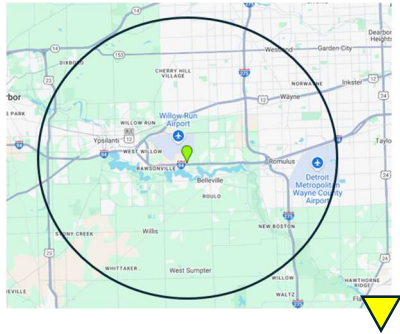
Within a mile of 2 schools

## Reference:

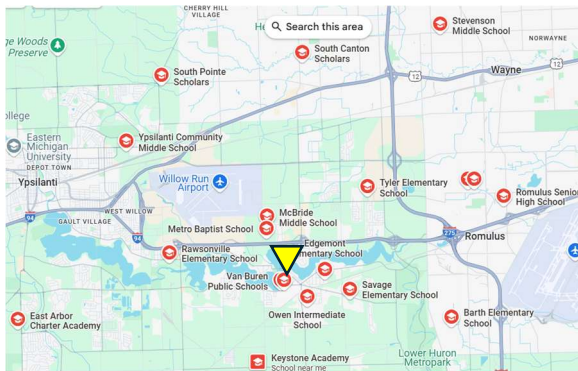
5 sites approved to dispose TENORM by USACE (US Army Corp Engineers):

|                   | 1 MILE RADIUS | 5 MILE RADIUS | 10 MILE RADIUS |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Robstown, TX      | 26            | 13,019        | 48,461         |
| Grand View, ID    | 3             | 142           | 491            |
| Andrews, TX       | 0             | 1,046         | 3,034          |
| Clive, UT         | 0             | 0             | 1              |
| Van Buren TWP, MI | 2,660         | 94,448        | 367,309        |

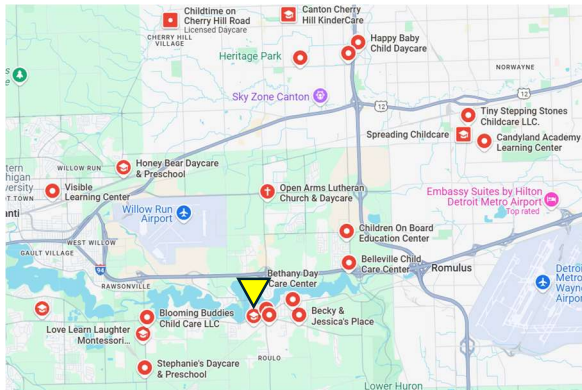
## 10 mile radius around WDI:



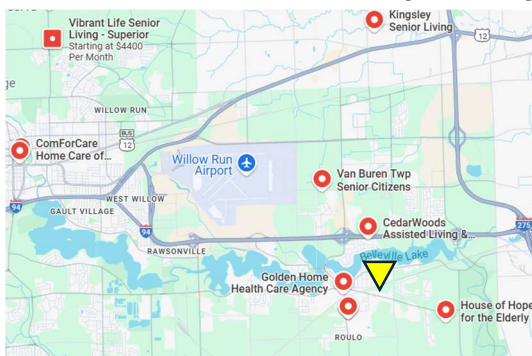
## Schools in close proximity to WDI/MDWTP



## Licensed Daycares in close proximity to WDI/MDWTP:



## Eldercare facilities in close proximity to WDI/MDWTP:



**Follow-up Questions?**

|                  |              |                             |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
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