



CALHOUN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

190 E. Michigan Avenue, Ste. A100 Phone: (269) 969-6370
Battle Creek, Michigan 49014 Fax: (269) 966-1489

- FOR RELEASE -

April 29, 2011

Contact person:

James Rutherford, 269-969-6380

Efforts to re-open the Kalamazoo River are underway

Officials working to cleanup and restore Talmadge Creek and the Kalamazoo River today announced that efforts to determine when the river and affected areas can be re-opened are well underway.

Evaluations of the river, near-by wetlands, bottom sediment, and shoreline are being conducted by cleanup experts from the US EPA and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The first phase of these evaluations is scheduled to be completed by early June. The results of this on-going work will be used by the local and state health agencies to make decisions about whether the river and impacted areas are safe for public use.

Potentially impacted areas include parks and river access points. Local officials ask that the public avoid these areas until all the evaluations have been completed.

“We want to re-open the creek, river and impacted areas as soon as possible, but these decisions will be based on data and with health and safety concerns the number one priority,” said James Rutherford, Health Officer, Calhoun County Public Health Department. “In June, we will be able to provide more detail about potential re-opening this summer.”

Currently Talmadge Creek, the Kalamazoo River, and impacted areas remain closed to help protect the health and safety of local residents and visitors. This closure applies to all recreational activities, including boating, swimming and fishing.

The ban on agricultural use of water from the creek and river also remains in effect.

Updates on the oil spill response can also be found online at www.calhouncounty.gov/publichealth, www.kalcounty.com/hcs, www.epa.gov/enbridgespill, www.michigan.gov/oilspill and response.enbridgeUS.com.

###