

Press release from MCWC sent to media today. If you would like a copy of FOIA or letter to Nestle please email me tswier@centurytel.net - terry

Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation

For Immediate Release:

October 18, 2006

Contact: Terry Swier, President MCWC - 231-972-8856
Jim Olson, Attorney MCWC – 231-946-0044

Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation asks for disclosure of Nestlé's future plans in Newaygo County

Mecosta – October 18, 2006 – On behalf of its members, including those who reside in Newaygo County, Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation sent a Freedom of Information Act letter to Steve Chester, Director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality requesting that the MDEQ demand public disclosure by Nestle Waters North America Inc. for any new or proposed water source and/or water well sites under consideration in Newaygo County and other Counties, all studies, reports, and information related to hydrogeological soil and water investigations, tests, sampling, monitoring, pump tests, proposed truck routes or pipelines to the Stanwood Ice Mountain Plant. A letter demanding the same disclosure was sent directly to Nestlé's headquarters and to its plant in Michigan.

Nestlé Waters North America Inc. (Nestlé) announced through its representatives and media arm that it has been scouting new "spring" well sites in Newaygo County for the past three years. The two possible well sites are located in Wilcox and Monroe Township about 15-20 miles from Nestlé's Ice Mountain plant in Stanwood, Michigan in Mecosta County.

Judge Lawrence Root, Circuit Court Judge, ruled in Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation v Nestlé Waters North America Inc. in 2003 that the extraction and sale of tributary groundwater that effects flows and levels of lakes and a stream was unlawful. The Court of Appeals affirmed Judge Root's ruling that Nestle's well field operation in Mecosta County caused unlawful harm to an inland lake and stream. The legality of Nestle's water exports from Michigan's watershed and the Great Lakes basin is pending in the Michigan Supreme Court.

"MCWC is shocked that Nestlé would continue with more secret non-public water takings, given that the water is a public resource held in trust for the people of Michigan. Nestlé's arrogance is apparent with charging ahead when the Mecosta County Circuit Court and the Michigan Court of Appeals both determined that Nestlé's pumping caused substantial harm in the headwaters of the West Branch of the Little Muskegon River in Mecosta County," said Terry Swier, president of MCWC.

Jim Olson, legal counsel for MCWC, said, "These type of private water exports that diminish our lakes and streams, whether in ships, trucks, or bottles, should not be permitted to continue. If the citizens of Michigan do not keep strict control on who, when, where and for what purpose someone is

allowed to export our water for private gain, we will ourselves in dire straits when the global demand for water comes crashing on our shores.”

MCWC believes the public is entitled to information involving the proposed removal of public waters from a watershed for export outside of the Great Lakes basin or the watersheds of the State. Without such information, citizens, property owners, and communities who are affected have left means to evaluate proposals, like Nestle’s, to continuously remove water for hundreds of years.

####