

NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST (NPL)

NPL Site

March 2026

GELMAN SCIENCES INC. | Ann Arbor, Michigan Washtenaw County

Site Location:

The Gelman Sciences Inc. site is located near Ann Arbor, Michigan. It consists of a former medical filter manufacturer and a contaminated groundwater plume that has spread through Ann Arbor and Scio Townships, including the western part of the city of Ann Arbor.

Site History:

Gelman Sciences Inc. (Gelman) manufactured medical filters and related products for pharmaceutical, microelectronics, and pollution testing industries. In 1966, Gelman began using 1,4-dioxane as a solvent for filters and cleaning process lines. Gelman's operations caused the release of hazardous substances from years of handling of 1,4-dioxane on its facility grounds. In May 1986, 1,4-dioxane use was reportedly discontinued and replaced with other solvents. Onsite manufacturing operations ceased in 2013.

Site Contamination/Contaminants:

1,4-Dioxane has been found in groundwater above Michigan's Part 201 residential drinking water cleanup criteria.

Potential Impacts on Surrounding Community/Environment:

The 1,4-dioxane plume has migrated into three aquifers that may be connected to /or may be a source of drinking water to the population of Ann Arbor and the surrounding areas. Approximately 7,985 individuals living within a 4-mile radius may be impacted by the contamination.

Response Activities (to date):

In 1992, a county circuit court ordered Gelman to address the plume under a consent judgement. Gelman was ordered to contain the plume, prevent groundwater use in contaminated areas, prevent well use within the plume or areas threatened by the plume, and connect affected properties to municipal water. The consent judgement, which has been modified multiple times since 1992, does not provide for the restoration of the groundwater to beneficial use.

Need for NPL Listing:

The state of Michigan referred the site to the EPA for NPL listing because it cannot compel Gelman to do more under their cleanup authorities as the plume continues to expand. Other state and federal cleanup programs were evaluated but are not viable at this time. The EPA received a letter of support for placing this site on the NPL from the state.

[The description of the site (release) is based on information available at the time the site was evaluated with the HRS. The description may change as additional information is gathered on the sources and extent of contamination. See 56 FR 5600, February 11, 1991, or subsequent FR notices.]