



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
LANSING



STEVEN E. CHESTER  
DIRECTOR

April 14, 2009

Ms. Deb Alderink, Chair  
Kent County Local Emergency Planning Committee  
701 Ball Avenue, Northeast  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Dear Ms. Alderink:

The Michigan SARA Title III Program in the Department of Environmental Quality would like to extend congratulations to the Kent County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) on your 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an active and effective LEPC. Your commitment to public welfare is exemplary.

The Kent County LEPC stands out among Michigan LEPCs because of your outreach to industry and the public. The materials you prepared for public education have been shared with and used by other LEPCs. At the State level, your work with industry reporters has been evident. The annual workshops that you hold for businesses and farms in Kent County have noticeably improved compliance with the SARA Title III requirements. It is evident to the Michigan SARA Title III Program staff that facilities in Kent County know and respect their LEPC and understand that submitting an accurate hazardous chemical inventory is an important component of emergency preparedness.

The Michigan SARA Title III Program also appreciates Kent County's participation in the online reporting program. Kent County is one of only five counties in Michigan that participate in this program. All fire departments in Kent County can now access the most current hazardous chemical inventory data as well as all of the offsite emergency response plans that your LEPC has attached in the program. Because of the efforts of the Kent County LEPC, the community in Kent County can be assured of a level of protection in the event of a chemical release emergency that is unsurpassed.

Thank you Kent County LEPC for your hard work and dedication to emergency preparedness in Kent County.

Sincerely,

Susan E Parker  
Community Right-to-Know Specialist  
Michigan SARA Title III Program

cc: Captain Thomas Sands, Chair, Michigan Citizen-Community Emergency  
Response Coordinating Council  
Mr. Milton Scales, Chair, Emergency Planning & Community  
Right-to-Know Committee  
Ms. Susan L. Barthels, Kent County LEPC Coordinator