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Michigan Sugar alerts Bay City residents to odors caused by comprehensive pond cleaning project

Thorough cleaning project is focused on reducing odors in the future

BAY CITY – **Michigan Sugar Company** today alerted Bay City residents that cleaning of ponds used to store and treat water at the Bay City facility will likely create odors as sediment and organic material are removed from the ponds. Buildup of organic matter is a contributor to odors from sugarbeet facilities, and the thorough cleaning process is aimed at reducing those odors in the future.

“Cleaning our water storage ponds is a critical step to reducing odors at our Bay City facility in the long term,” said **Mark Flegenheimer**, CEO of **Michigan Sugar**. “We are committed to doing all we can to reduce odors through facility upgrades, new technology and new strategies, and a thorough cleaning of the water storage ponds is an important activity. We want to alert the community to this work, and let residents know that while odors will be created by this process, the pond cleaning is an important way to reduce odors in the future.”

The cleaning process is expected to take several weeks as water ponds undergo the thorough cleaning process to remove organic material. Odors are created at all sugarbeet processing facilities, and organic material in water ponds is a leading contributor to the issue. In addition, **Flegenheimer** noted that Michigan Sugar is undertaking a new pilot project this fall that, if successful, will reduce odors in the future. To ensure the best possible results, clean water storage ponds are important.

“This cleaning process is just one part of Michigan Sugar’s comprehensive effort to reduce odors created by sugarbeet processing, and it all starts with a thorough cleaning of water ponds,” he said. “While the odors may increase in the short term, we’re confident this work will reduce them going forward, which is a top priority for Michigan Sugar.”

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