

Nestlé Waters, enviro group settle over MI water

Wednesday, July 08, 2009

GRAND RAPIDS, MI — Nestlé Waters North America has said that a settlement reached July 6 in a lengthy legal dispute regarding water withdrawals for its Ice Mountain brand provides certainty for its operations and allows the company to move forward, according to a July 7 [story](#) in the *Chicago Tribune*.

In 2001, Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation sued Nestlé, claiming water withdrawals for its Mecosta Township-based Ice Mountain bottling plant would damage neighboring lakes, streams and wetlands.

When the plant opened seven years ago, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's water division granted a permit allowing Nestlé to withdraw up to 400 gallons per minute (gpm), or 576,000 gallons per day (gpd).

The agreement, approved by a Mecosta County judge, allows Nestlé to pump an average of 218 gpm, or about 313,000 gpd, with restrictions on spring and summer withdrawals.

Nestlé Waters Vice President Heidi Paul is quoted as saying in a statement, "Reaching this agreement is very important for Nestlé Waters' employees and their families, the west Michigan community and our company, in that it brings certainty for our operations, supports local jobs and puts an issue behind us."

Terry Swier, president of the environmental group, called the settlement a victory for her organization, noting the agreement leaves more water in the system.