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NEW BOTTLING PLANT STIRS WATER DEBATE



A test well being dug in preparation for the construction of the Ice Mountain bottling plant. Perrier hopes to have the plant up and running by next spring. Photo by Patrick Owen/MLUI.

Is Great Lakes water for sale? That's the issue on the table in Michigan right now, where the Perrier Group of America has begun construction on a 100 million dollar water bottling operation. Last year, government officials in Wisconsin rejected a similar proposal from Perrier. The Michigan plan has sparked local opposition and more. The start of the plant's construction has given birth to concerns about whether groundwater in Great Lakes states should be considered part of the Great Lakes water basin. And if it is, some question whether it should be for sale. The Great Lakes Radio Consortium's Matt Shafer Powell reports:

[Read the Michigan Land Use Institute's report *Liquid Gold Rush*](#)

[See Perrier's website on its Ice Mountain Plant in Mecosta County, Michigan](#)

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