

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Battle Creek Business to Distribute Free Drinking Water to Oil Spill Volunteers, Clean-Up Crew**

*Atlas Sales Inc. to deliver around 24,000 cans of water*

BATTLE CREEK – **Atlas Sales Inc.**, a family owned beer and wine distributor that serves an area including Kalamazoo and Calhoun counties, will distribute more than 24,000 cans of drinking water to the volunteers and clean-up crew working at the site of the massive Kalamazoo River oil spill. Atlas expects to distribute the drinking water by this weekend.

“Atlas Sales has served this community for generations, we consider it part of our family and we want to do everything we can to help clean up the oil spill that has devastated the Kalamazoo River and the wildlife and plant life in the area,” **Atlas President Greg Dunn** said today. “The Kalamazoo River defines who we are in this community. Many businesses depend on a healthy Kalamazoo River to attract everything from tourists and anglers to families looking to spend a day canoeing on the river. It is one of the great rivers of the Midwest that we want to protect today and for generations to come. Atlas Sales is proud of the community and the many volunteers who stepped forward in this crisis and we are ready to do what we can to help.”

Atlas Sales is working with the Anheuser-Busch emergency drinking water program to bring around 1,000 cases – or around 24,000 cans – of drinking water to Atlas’ location in Battle Creek. The water is expected to arrive Friday. Atlas will then deliver the water to a centralized location near the spill site to be distributed to volunteers and clean-up crewmembers.

More than a million gallons of oil spilled from a pipeline near Marshall, contaminating an 80-mile stretch of the Kalamazoo River from Marshall and Battle Creek all the way to Galesburg just east of Kalamazoo. The oil spill is considered the worst oil disaster in the Midwest.

### **About Atlas Sales Inc.**

Atlas Sales, Inc. has been in operation as a family owned beverage distribution company since 1933, serving the Battle Creek and surrounding areas. The company was founded by Theron (Pick) Fagan after the repeal of prohibition in 1933. Atlas Sales was one of the first companies organized to distribute beer and wine when prohibition ended in Michigan. During the past seven decades, the company has been located in five different warehouses that were ever larger and more modern. After Fagan’s death in 1983, Fagan’s wife Frankie Fagan took over. She then passed the business down to her son, Greg Dunn.

In addition to providing quality beverages and services, Atlas today is a major employer in the Battle Creek area and is actively involved in numerous community charities, events, programs and other humanitarian causes. Atlas is especially active in statewide efforts to fight illegal underage drinking and reduce drunken driving, working in conjunction with law enforcement agencies, community advocates and education leaders.

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