



WISCONSIN STATE SENATE
DAVE HANSEN
SENATOR – 30TH DISTRICT

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November 20, 2018

Dan Meyer, Secretary
Department of Natural Resources
101 South Webster Street, GEF 2
Madison, WI 53707

--HAND DELIVERED--

RE: Request to WDNR to Establish a State Health Advisory Level for the Summed Total Concentration of PFAS in Drinking Water and Groundwater

Dear Secretary Meyer,

Last May I wrote to you to ask for the department's assistance in protecting many of my constituents whose wells have been contaminated by PFOS and PFOA that resulted from fire suppression testing conducted by Tyco International in Marinette, which is now merged with Johnson Controls. Since that time more information has become available regarding the true nature of the contamination in my district as well as how pervasive these compounds are in our state's groundwater.

Approximately two-thirds of the people living in Wisconsin rely on groundwater for their drinking water. Adequate supplies of uncontaminated groundwater are crucial to the health of all residents and their families, particularly expectant mothers and newborns. Human health studies have shown that exposure to certain PFAS may affect growth, learning, and behavior of infants and older children, lower a woman's chance of getting pregnant, interfere with the body's natural hormones, increase cholesterol levels, affect the immune system, and increase the risk of cancer. The persistence and mobility of certain PFAS can lead to large groundwater contaminant plumes extending miles from source areas.

As the Department is aware, many of my constituents have been directly affected by contamination from the Tyco Fire Technology Center (Johnson Controls) near Marinette. In March 2018, the Department reported that 36 nearby private drinking water wells were found to be contaminated with Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). Analysis of groundwater at the facility has detected 19 PFAS analytes in groundwater and/or soils.

I am aware that the U.S. EPA has established a Health Advisory Level for PFOA and PFOS in drinking water however it is not applicable to the complex mixture of PFAS found in Wisconsin's groundwater and affected drinking water wells. Moreover, ATSDR's recently-released draft toxicological profile for perfluoroalkyls provides strong evidence that the current federal lifetime health advisory is not sufficiently protective.

Therefore, on behalf of my constituents, I am writing to urge the WDNR, in consultation with the Wisconsin Department of Health, to immediately establish a Health Advisory Level (HAL) for the summed-total concentration of all PFAS detected in the State's groundwater and/or having a reasonable probability of entering groundwater such as presence in soils, and to begin the process for quickly establishing enforceable groundwater and drinking water standards for the summed-total concentration of PFAS.

Sincerely,

Dave Hansen

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