

From: Margaret Larson

Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:10 PM

To: Andrea Richmond <arichmond@lacrossecounty.org>; richmonda@cityoflacrosse.org; Barbara Janssen <bjanssen@lacrossecounty.org>; janssenb@cityoflacrosse.org; Gary Padesky <gpadesky@lacrossecounty.org>; padeskyg@cityoflacrosse.org; Sleznikowl@cityoflacrosse.org; happeld@cityoflacrosse.org

Cc: Rep. Steve Doyle <Rep.Doyle@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Steve Doyle <sdoyle@lacrossecounty.org>; Rep. Jill Billings <Rep.Billings@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Pfaff@legis.wisconsin.gov

Subject: PFAs on French Island

Hello Andrea, Barb, Gary, Larry and Doug,

I'm writing to ask your help with speeding up the PFAs testing on French Island and to test ALL wells in the Town of Campbell.

As the county board supervisor for the 14th district, I represent most of French Island plus half the homes on Nakomis and Cherokee.

Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have been used for decades in firefighting foam and have infiltrated surface and groundwater. Studies suggest human health effects from PFAS exposure could include immune suppression, liver effects, developmental and reproductive effects, and cancer. People may be exposed to PFAs through the water-proofed products we use, food we eat such as fish, as well as drinking water in areas of PFAS contamination.

Many states, including Wisconsin, consider greater than 20 ppt (parts per trillion) to be unsafe. However, there are states that have reduced that marker to 10 or less ppt.

On the advice of the OS Group, the City of La Crosse is testing select private wells on French Island in a logical manner.

As you know, in response to the first round of testing, the city is supplying bottled water to 30+ households with too high of a PFAs count.

And now we're waiting for results of the second round of testing. The images below provide a quick review.

However, some wells outside the logical scope of suspected PFAs problems (meaning they are not being tested by the city) have been tested on the town's or the individual resident's dime. And these results are very troubling.

For example, the town paid to test wells which serve its public buildings. The results are:

Town Hall: 3.1 ppt which is OK

Community Center, due west of the airport: 10.98 ppt which is questionable

Library, due west of the 2001 air crash site: 26 ppt which is of concern

A few individual residents who paid for their own testing (approx. \$400) have received these results:

2600 block of Lakeshore Drive: 19.1 ppt

2700 block of Del Ray Ave: 40+ ppt

3500 block of Lakeshore Drive: 40+ ppt

This home is at the northern tip of the island and across the road from Nelson Park, which was the site of a plane crash in 1970.

The city and the OS Group seem to be unaware of this crash site and, therefore, need to test all homes in the immediate vicinity and to the south.

Several of us outside the sample testing areas are still waiting for results from the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene.

When I delivered samples from our well on the northern end of Nakomis Avenue on February 3, I was told to expect results in two months.

However, the wait time will probably be 3+ months.

We recently learned that the reason the turn around time has become so very slow is that the state has furloughed employees in the State Lab.

I've been discussing this issue with Lee Donahue who is the Town Board Supervisor for Health, Education and Welfare of Campbell residents.

She has become knowledgeable about this issue through research and conversations with city, county and state officials.

And the La Crosse School District is testing the well water supply for Summit Elementary School at her request.

I believe the following to be true:

The city became aware of the PFAs problems in wells 23 and 24 on French Island a few years ago.

The city contracted with the OS Group at least one year before officially notifying the Town of Campbell about the problem.

At the current rate, the well-testing process will probably take at least one year.

The health of Campbell residents is at stake. And they are frightened.

Please do what you can to speed up the process AND test ALL wells in the Town.

Thank you,

Margaret Larson

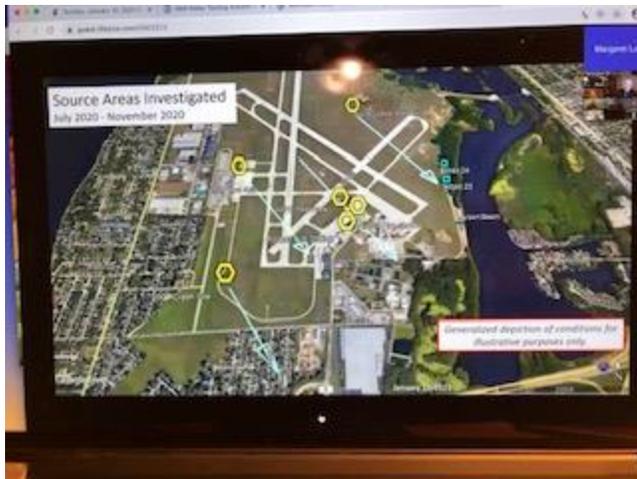
mlarson@lacrossecounty.org

608-780-7859 or 608-780-3099

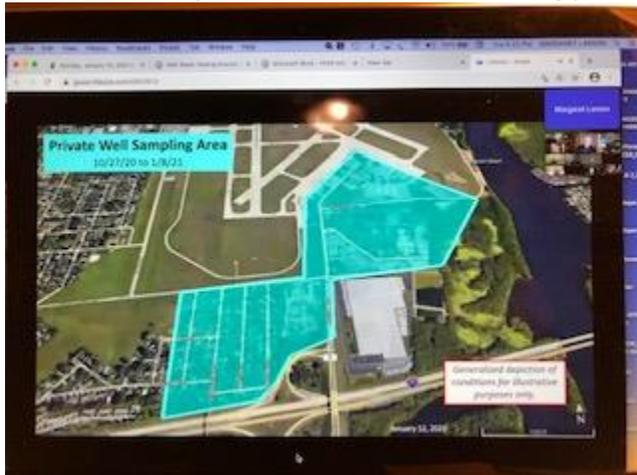
The yellow hexagons indicate the areas where PFAs are known to have been used in fighting and training to fight fires by the La Crosse Fire Department.

It is my understanding that the Campbell Fire Department had some PFAs fire-fighting foam in storage but never used it and paid to have it safely disposed.

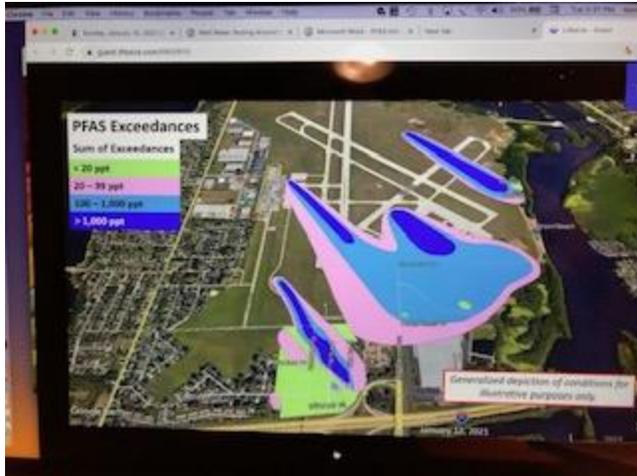
The yellow hexagon in the lower left is the site of the 2001 plane crash during AirFest.



Because the OS Group believes that the water table flows from northwest to southeast, the areas in turquoise were selected for testing private wells for PFAs.



This indicates where varying levels of PFAS were found in private wells. Wisconsin currently considers 20 parts per trillion to be the point at which well water is a danger to the people who use it for drinking, cooking, bathing, and watering vegetable gardens. Some states have reduced that marker to 10 or less ppt.



Based on the first round of well testing, the sampling areas have been expanded to include areas 1, 2 and 3 in turquoise for the second round of testing.

