

11/09/2021

PFAS Update-

Let's start with good news!

The multi-billion-dollar infrastructure bill has been passed. I reached out to Rep. Kind's office today to get details about the disbursement process and timeline. I was told that the treasury dept. will have to figure out the details and we can expect news about those processes by Jan. 2022.

I have also contacted Sen. Brad Pfaff's office about how that money will funnel down from the state to other municipalities. Margaret Larson also brings us good news tonight about the county budget process.

Last week in a senate hearing Sen. Baldwin asked the FAA director about the "missed" deadline to comply with the 2018 NDAA mandating all civilian airports must cease using AFFF or fluorinated foams by Oct 4th, 2021.

FAA Director Steve Dickson said that the deadline was delayed by Covid-19 and additional testing which is needed to see how non fluorine foams work in action. I immediately responded to Sen. Baldwin's staff that F3 foams have been successfully used in Europe and Australia for years and that it is a waste of time and money to continue testing older foams which should be replaced by F3 proven foams. Rep. Ron Kind's office is also working on a request to the FAA regarding compliance with the deadline.

My request for a meeting with the FAA director has not been answered. I am contacting international airport safety program leaders who can report on the safety and efficacy of their foams at high volume airports like London's Heathrow and Gatwick, Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris, as well as others in Germany, Australia etc.

It's imperative that civilian airports cease using AFFF foam to avoid growing plumes from new or additional contamination sites where AFFF is used or leaked.

The USGS tap water study was conducted in mid Oct. The team tested wells on USGS property at UMESC plus ToC water points, like; Nelson Park, Plainview Park, the Community Ctr, Library and Town hall. 3 residences were also sampled. We expect to get the initial results at the beginning of 2022 with further results potentially in May of 2022. It's possible that the USGS will be able to get approval for additional funding and testing next year. That is a USGS process. This work is important because it can show additional toxic substances which may be in our groundwater as a result of Burn pits and other activities. This information is vital to our long-term solutions to insure that as many toxic substances can be filtered from any water source which may be used.

I encourage every resident to contact all of their federal and state representatives and tell your personal story of PFAS contamination. Your voice is powerful and can make a tremendous impact on your community at local, county state and federal levels.

Make it known that safe drinking water should be a basic human right in WI and nationwide.

Supervisor Lee Donahue