

PFAS Update- Dec 14, 2021

In the last two weeks the DNR has conducted open hearings to receive verbal testimony and written input on creating water standards for two of the most well-known and readily used PFAS (PFOA and PFOS).

I gave both verbal testimony and written input in favor of standards for both. I testified that I would like to see lower standards set for both. This is a good starting place since currently the state of WI has no legally binding standards which can be enforced by the DNR.

I was also notified by Sen. Baldwin and Rep. Ron Kinds office that federal legislation has been passed to assist in water infrastructure. I've been told that the Dept. of Treasury will establish the process to disburse these funds to states. This is similar to the process when the American Rescue Act funds were allocated and approved. Sen. Brad Pfaff's office informed me, as the money reaches the State of WI, the Dept. of Administration will establish processes for the disbursement of the money.

Currently there are 80 communities in the state of WI dealing with some form of water contamination.

It's unclear if smaller municipalities with smaller budgets will have a priority for these funds.

I keep in very close contact with our county, state and federal elected leaders and their staff.

Meanwhile there are two additional articles available for you to read.

One is about the possibility that NDAA 2022 will be voted upon and possibly approved Wed. - tomorrow.

The other is a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel story on a trial method of PFAS remediation in Madison, WI. Research using microbes in relation to PFAS has expanded in recent years in the Mid-Atlantic and elsewhere in the US. In early studies the microbes ingested the PFAS at very slow rates which did not provide a meaningful impact. Locally Viterbo students are conducting research with microbes from the Black River bottoms. It will be interesting to see what comes out of these latest studies.

I encourage every resident to contact all of their county, state and federal representatives and tell your personal story of PFAS contamination. Without your voice lawmakers will not pursue this issue with the urgency it commands.

It is our responsibility to make it known that safe drinking water should be a right in WI and nationwide.

Thanks!

Lee Donahue
Supervisor #2