

PFAS Update- Feb 8, 2022 Lee Donahue Supervisor 2 Health, Education and Welfare

On the 22d of this month I will provide verbal testimony and written input in favor of standards for all water sources as the final public step of the rule making process.

Drinking water standards affect municipal water suppliers, like the City of La Crosse.

Surface water comes from rivers and lakes, which can be used as water resources, (ie. Peshtigo, Green Bay) which funnel water to municipal treatment facilities before being used for public drinking water.

Groundwater is what private well use - water pumped up from the ground. Roughly 2/3 of all Wisconsin residents *and* many businesses get their water from private wells.

The legislation will go to the Governor's office. All legislation must also go through the State Legislature's Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules (JCRAR). A list of the members of that committee can be found in the lobby. It is imperative that your voices regarding safe water standards are heard.

The Town of Peshtigo one of the longest known PFAS contaminated municipalities in WI has been waiting more than 5 years for safe water standards to be set. We've all been told to wait on the EPA to create standards. Meanwhile hundreds of thousands of private well users in the State of WI are subject to poisoned water. The problem is becoming more widespread as time ticks on.

We must set an initial standard. As scientific studies are performed, we can adjust standards (lower) as necessary. WI currently has no legally binding standards which can be enforced by the DNR or DHS.

I continue to work with Rep. Ron Kinds and Sen. Brad Pfaff's offices on PFAS legislation and updates on funding sources for water infrastructure. We discuss funding and potential grant resources. We are waiting for the EPA to establish guidelines on the use of these funds. The DNR has told us to expect the State process for disbursement of those funds to be finalized by summer or Fall.

While there are many communities in WI dealing with some form of water contamination. There are only three areas where the DNR is providing water. We are one of those three, and as such I consider us a priority for the receipt of those funds.

Last week I attended a webinar on a product which has been used at two airport sites in AL which were contaminated with AFFF. At the Fairbanks International airport part of the cleanup was paid for the Department of Transportation (parent to the FAA) and the State of Alaska. It's possible that the DOT has set a precedent with funding for remediation in relation to the FAA's use of AFFF. These locations had reduced levels of PFAS. Further research will show whether this product may assist us in reducing the levels of PFAS in our municipality.

I collaborate each week with our county, state and federal elected leaders and their staff.

I encourage every resident to contact their elected representatives regarding 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!

Senator Nass (Co-Chair)

Representative Neylon (Co-Chair)

Senator Stroebel

Senator Bradley

Senator Roys

Senator Larson

Representative August

Representative Spiros

Representative Subeck

Representative Hebl