

It's hard to know which good news to lead with tonight.

Today the EPA proposed strict limits of 4 parts per trillion, the lowest level they say can be reliably measured, for PFOA and PFOS. The EPA also wants to regulate the combined amount of four other types of PFAS. There are handouts with more details about this story.

Sen. Baldwin's office also announced a bipartisan effort to require civilian airports to transition to non-fluorinated foam as soon as possible. F3 foams have been widely available and used worldwide for more than a decade. On my trip to DC last week I provided each WI legislator a copy of third party independently tested F3 foams asking them to support the immediate transition.

Congressman Van Orden's office encouraged us to submit a CDS request for the balance of the amount we requested from Sen. Baldwin the year before. That topic is on the agenda for board discussion tonight.

Closer to home the Nelson drilling and testing process continues. They sampled soil and rock chips as the drilling continued to a depth just shy of 500 feet deep, where they encountered what they refer to as a granite "basement". They have encountered various layers of rock and the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey has been on site to study those samples, do additional research and help assess if they represent part of the Eau Claire formation. The well drillers expect to begin pumping operations later this week and also sample the water. A few weeks ago during the drilling they were able to pump roughly 350 gallons per minute. It's possible that we will have well water test results in the next few weeks. Additional testing and monitoring will likely last through the end of this month.

I can answer some basic questions about the project. For more detailed questions I'll defer to Chairman Johnson, or Davy Engineering.

Campbell, USGS, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, and UW Madison partners are finalizing the scope of work for the ground water study funded by the County. The county has agreed to put this on their agenda for a County meeting in April.

La Crosse County is using the filter collection program as a model for the state. Their current site serves five counties. I thank you all for participating in that program to keep these filters out of the WTE facility.

Last night the USGS-UMESC staff hosted a National Tap Water presentation at 6PM. I am very grateful to their partnership to support this study and hosting the meeting last night. The combined in person and virtual attendance showed roughly 70 people participated.

I'm grateful for all of our community partners at the county, state, and federal level who share the goal of identifying a safe sustainable water source and funding to pay for it. If you or your neighbors have questions about PFAS please do not hesitate to contact me.