



WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR
DAVE HANSEN
SENATOR – 30TH DISTRICT

State Capitol P.O. Box 7882 Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882 Phone: (608) 266-5670

January 26, 2018

Liesa Lehmann Kerler, Section Chief
Private Water Supply - Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
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Madison, WI 53707-7921
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--SENT BY ELECTRONIC MAIL--

Dear Section Chief Lehmann Kerler,

I have been contacted by numerous constituents who are very concerned about the impact and potential health risks associated with exposure to contaminants that have been detected in drinking water and groundwater in and near Johnson Controls-Tyco Fire Products facility.

Aqueous film-forming foam has been used for over 40 years for fire-training and emergency response activities. As a result of these activities, groundwater and residential drinking water wells in the vicinity of this and other Wisconsin sites have become contaminated with perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and other poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs).

In 2016, EPA established Health Advisory Levels for drinking water for these contaminants. However, the EPA's drinking water advisories are not enforceable and the EPA emphasizes that it is "committed to supporting states and public water systems as they determine the appropriate steps to reduce exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water."

It is my understanding that the DNR is currently considering whether or not to (1) initiate the rulemaking process for enforceable groundwater and/or drinking water standards for PFASs and (2) whether or not to submit a request to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for Lifetime Health Advisory Levels and/or interim groundwater standards for PFOA (CAS #335-67-1), PFOS (CAS #1763-23-1), and PFOA/PFOS combined.

As I have previously stated, I strongly encourage the DNR to immediately initiate efforts to regulate currently unregulated contaminants of concern detected in and near the Johnson Controls-Tyco Fire Products facility.

However, the promulgation of new state groundwater standards invariably takes **YEARS**. Given the recent devastating discovery of PFASs in drinking water wells in my District and others, the need for Wisconsin Lifetime Health Advisory Levels (HALs) is **IMMEDIATE**.

HALs are established by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for contaminants in groundwater and drinking water. HALs serve as technical guidance to assist regulators with water consumption advisories and groundwater remediation decisions. HAL values may be used by the State in making recommendations to well owners and/or water users on continued use of their water supply and as remediation goals for the protection of groundwater resources of the state. They also provide the public with essential information about the potential health risks associated with exposure to contaminants in drinking water and well water.

For this reason, I strongly urge the Department to immediately issue a request to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for Lifetime Health Advisory Levels and/or interim groundwater standards for PFOA (CAS #335-67-1), PFOS (CAS #1763-23-1), PFOA/PFOS combined, and any other currently unregulated contaminants of concern at and near the near Johnson Controls-Tyco Fire Products facility.

Thank you for your immediate attention to my letter and I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Hansen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dave Hansen
State Senator

cc: Steven B. Elmore, Director, Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater, DNR
Steve.Elmore@wisconsin.gov