

Badger Restoration Advisory Board/Citizen Resolution
Calling on the U.S. Army to Prioritize and Conduct Off-base Public and Residential
Well Testing for PFAS near Badger Army Ammunition Plant, WI
September 17, 2018

Preamble:

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of toxic man-made chemicals that are very persistent and mobile in the environment, creating huge groundwater contaminant plumes that readily migrate miles from source areas. Exposure to certain forms of PFAS is associated with low infant birth weights, effects on the immune system, cancer and thyroid hormone disruption.

Among the priority military sites in Wisconsin are Mitchell Air Force Base (Milwaukee), Truax Field (Madison), Volk Field (Camp Douglas) and Fort McCoy (Sparta) where high levels of PFAS have been detected in soils and groundwater. At burn pits at Fort McCoy, PFAS concentrations in groundwater have been reported as high as 121,000 parts per trillion (ppt) – more than 1,700 times the EPA Health Advisory Level of 70 ppt for drinking water.

The suspected source at these sites is aqueous film-forming foams (AFFF) containing PFAS which has been used by the Department of Defense for over 40 years for suppressing liquid fuel fires, fire-training exercises and other emergency fire response activities. As a result of these activities, groundwater, surface water, and plants and animals in the vicinity of military installations have become contaminated with PFAS, some much more than others.

Nationwide, as of August 2017, the Department of Defense has tested 2,445 off-base public and private drinking water systems for PFAS. Of these, 564 public or private drinking water systems tested above the EPA Health Advisory Level for drinking water.¹

Resolution:

Whereas in 1990, three families living near Badger Army Ammunition Plant (Badger) learned that they had been unknowingly exposed to carcinogenic solvents in their drinking water because off-base testing was not prioritized, and

Whereas the Army recently announced that a Preliminary Assessment for PFAS will be conducted at Badger, and

Whereas the Army has made a public commitment to test approximately 300 residential wells near Badger in the coming months, and

Whereas the Total Oxidizable Precursor (TOP) Assay can help measure the concentration of non-discrete and difficult to measure PFAS compounds that are not determined as discrete compounds by conventional analytical methods,²

THEREFORE, we the undersigned, urge the U.S. Army to complete the following as soon as possible:

- test **all public drinking water systems** within a four-mile radius of Badger for PFAS. These public systems include but are not limited to Maple Park Condominiums, Sauk City, Village of Prairie du Sac, Summer Oaks Condominium Association, Bluffview Commons and Bluffview Sanitary District,
- include PFAS analysis in the planned testing of approximately **300 residential wells** near Badger,
- analyze drinking water wells for **all detectable PFAS analytes and precursors**, and
- to also conduct PFAS analysis of drinking water utilizing the **TOP Assay**,
- in addition to former fire-training areas, include **former burning areas, landfills and waste disposal areas** in the planned Preliminary Assessment for PFAS at Badger.

Signators are listed on following pages >

¹ Maureen Sullivan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Environment, Safety & Occupational Health), Addressing Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA), March 2018. <https://cswab.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/DoD-PFAS-Presentation-to-Congress-March-2018.pdf>

² Ms. Karla Buechler, Test America, Closing the PFAS Mass Balance: The Total Oxidizable Precursor (TOP) Assay, White Paper No. CA-T-W-006, rev -July, 2017, https://www.testamericainc.com/media/1822/testamerica-top-assay-white-paper-ver-61-july_2017.pdf

NOTE: Other national laboratories also have the capacity to perform the TOP Assay.

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Calling on the U.S. Army to Prioritize and Conduct Off-base Public and Residential Well Testing for PFAS near Badger Army Ammunition Plant, WI

September 17, 2018

SIGNED BY:

1. Michele Hopp, Badger RAB member representing the Village of Merrimac
2. Mary Jane Koch, Badger RAB, At Large member
3. Ron Lins, Badger RAB Co-Chair, representing the Town of Prairie du Sac
4. William Wenzel, Badger RAB member representing the Village of Prairie du Sac
5. William T. Stehling, Badger RAB, At Large member, residing in Sauk City, WI
6. Mary Carol Solum, Badger RAB, At Large member
7. Charlie Wilhelm, Badger RAB, At Large member
8. Roger Heidenreich, Badger RAB member representing the Town of Merrimac
9. Laura Olah, Badger RAB member representing Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger (CSWAB)
10. Peter J. Vedro, Chair, Sauk County Board of Supervisors, 617 Bascom Hill Drive, Baraboo, WI
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