



TALKING POINTS: Protecting Wisconsin Waters from PFAS

36

PFAS compounds have been found in or have a reasonable probability of entering the groundwater resources of the state, according to the Wisconsin DNR.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of man-made toxic chemicals used to make consumer products resistant to water, grease or stains. Research has shown probable links between PFAS exposure and cancer, thyroid disease, high cholesterol, ulcerative colitis, and pregnancy-induced hypertension.

Aqueous film-forming foams (AFFF) containing PFAS 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.

Industrial sites like the Tyco/Johnson Controls facilities in Marinette, Wisconsin are sources of PFAS groundwater contamination that has spread from these sites, threatening nearby fisheries and affecting residential wells. So far, at least 36 families have been exposed to PFAS in their drinking water. The highest concentration detected in a private well was 1900 ng/L, far above the EPA's Health Advisory Level of 70 ng/L (parts per trillion).

Goals for PFAS Policy...

- ▶ **Interim Health Advisory Levels** will be issued by state health officials now for the summed-total concentration of all PFAS including precursors.
- ▶ **Analysis of fish tissue** will be conducted now at known PFAS-contaminated sites including Truax ANG, Fort McCoy and the Tyco/Ansul facility in Marinette.
- ▶ Private well water users (4-mile radius), public water system operators and tribes (10-mile radius) will be immediately **notified** of discovered PFAS groundwater contamination.
- ▶ **ALL public water** supply systems will be analyzed for PFAS. (Michigan has already initiated this same effort.)
- ▶ A comprehensive statewide **inventory** of known and potential PFAS sources will be initiated.
- ▶ Protective **state standards** for all environmental media will be established for all PFAS including precursors.
- ▶ **Better analytics** will be utilized to detect all PFAS including precursors.
- ▶ Effective **treatment** methods that do not re-disperse PFAS to the environment will be developed and deployed.
- ▶ A **cost recovery plan** will be developed and implemented.

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