

Proposed Changes:

The results from recent testing are staggering and demand attention. The DNR and State Health Department have recommended 20ppt as the limit for PFOS and PFAS in drinking water. Some limited testing done a few years ago found PFAS levels up to 46,000 parts per trillion (ppt) in airbase soils and groundwater. This amount eclipses the recently-proposed Wisconsin standard of 20 ppt. Late last year, the DNR found that water in Starkweather Creek had 400 ppt of the PFOS compound. Foam collected near the Olbrich Park boat launch had between 80,000 and 90,000 ppt. This January, fish tested in Lake Monona had PFAS concentrations of 110,000 ppt and fish in Starkweather Creek had up to 180,000 ppt. Recent data released by DNR revealed PFAS have spread throughout the lower Yahara lake system. ~~This is a very alarming environmental justice issue as many low income people and families of color rely on fishing in these waters and regularly consume contaminated fish.~~

This creates an alarming environmental justice issue. Low-income and subsistence households use locally-caught fish as a food source. Maria Powell, executive director of the Midwest Environmental Justice Organization, argues studies indicating the amount of recreationally harvested fish lacks a proper representation of people of color and subsistence anglers. Low-income households likely rely on fish due to food insecurity. Public Health Madison Dane County data indicates food insecurity predominately impacts Hispanic and African-American groups. Sadly, food insecurity impacts children's education and psychological well-being, and adults' health and quality of life. Worries about contaminated food sources in addition to nutrition concerns exacerbate this injustice.

And then the 2nd modification is to add a sentence to the 3rd bullet.

Conduct a health impact assessment to evaluate health risks posed to those eating contaminated fish and find remedies to eliminate the risk, as well as any risks posed by drinking or immersion in our waters. ~~Including suggesting strategies to mitigate health impacts.~~ This assessment should include strategies to mitigate health impacts and enhance programs to provide alternative food sources to food-insecure subsistence anglers until PFAS reduce to safe amounts.