

Item 22

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Ralph W. Scott
17 Kewaunee Court
Madison, WI 53705
August 23, 2007

Dear Ms. Mather,

I have been interested in the news about the local Water Utility. I have no personal experience with operations of a utility, but I do have some comments as a resident and a graduate of the UW Biochemistry Department. I noted from previous news that the utility had recommended removing some old pipes, that a brief error in the fluoride amount was corrected, and that the output of the wells was carefully followed and some wells retired. I understand that this is a technical operation requiring special expertise,

I know that there have been criticisms by some residents. My impression is that generally these critics do not understand the meaning of parts per billion, a very miniscule amount. The data I noticed on the fluoride showed a high value under the federal limit. Values on the metals were never scary. There is no well in the system that I would have stopped drinking its output nor any bottled water in existence that I would have used in preference. At age 87 I have experienced drinking water in many states and many countries. I know of none that I would prefer to ours.

I believe that the Mayor and the Board have been unduly influenced by the critics. We should be very careful about the next step because we could find ourselves with a smooth speaking administrator but with less skill in operation of our utility.

Sincerely,

Ralph W. Scott