



Office of the Mayor

Paul R. Soglin, Mayor

City-County Building, Room 403
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Madison, Wisconsin 53703-3345
PH 608 266 4611
FAX 608 267 8671
www.cityofmadison.com
mayor@cityofmadison.com

May 11, 2012

Lou Host-Jablonski
Chair, Schenk-Atwood-Starkweather-Yahara Neighborhood Association
c/o Design Coalition, Inc.
2088 Atwood Ave.
Madison, WI 53704

Dear Mr. Host-Jablonski,

Thank you for your letter of April 13, 2012 concerning Madison Water Utility (MWU) Unit Well 8 and the groundwater contamination at Madison-Kipp Corporation. I appreciate hearing the concerns of the Schenk-Atwood-Starkweather-Yahara Neighborhood Association. As you know, MWU engaged the community on East Side water supply planning issues over the last couple of years. This process resulted in several citizen-drafted white papers, or "advisories", to the Water Utility Board, and subsequent Board endorsement of a plan to provide treatment systems at Unit Wells 7, 8, and 15, and a new well to replace Unit Well 3.

Unit Well 8 is an essential component of the water supply system to meet future water demand on the East Side, even with the attainment of planned water conservation measures. The Kipp contamination doesn't change that fact. As a city, we have responded aggressively in recent months to the Kipp situation, demanding that the DNR require Kipp to remediate the spill and protect the public from harm.

Even so, this summer MWU will install a sentinel well approximately halfway between Madison Kipp and Unit Well 8 along the groundwater flow path to provide advance warning should the contamination be more extensive than currently thought.

As you know, the operation of Unit Well 8 has been minimized for quite some time due to concerns over iron and manganese levels, which can cause discolored water under certain conditions. I have confidence in the MWU management to make sound operational decisions as they balance concerns regarding public health and fire protection.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Soglin
Mayor

Cc: Water Utility Board
Tom Heikkinen, Water Utility General Manager
Alder Marsha Rummel
Senator Mark Miller
Representative Chris Taylor