

From: Michael D. Barrett
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 12:28 AM
To: Water <water@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Rummel, Marsha <district6@cityofmadison.com>; SASYNA-Discussions <SASYNA-Discussions@yahoogroups.com>; einpc-drinking_water@yahoogroups.com; marqna@groups.io
Subject: TOMORROW, PFAS on Tue. Water Utility Board agenda

Dear Water Utility Board Members,

Re:

Tuesday November 26

Water Utility Board

4:30p 119 E. Olin Ave. Conference Room A&B

<https://madison.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=A&ID=668262&GUID=D12D3774-E515-4D11-AD4D-369352D6BAE2>

4. 54488 Update regarding poly- and perfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS)

Please start taking our drinking water seriously. You have an agenda item before you regarding PFAS. You will be encouraged to wait for the DNR, the EPA, Godot. It's pitiful. The nasties are in our water NOW. You need to act NOW to halt further pollution of our drinking water. What is in our water NOW is wrecking our future.

To date, most Water Utility action on pollution has been about absolving polluters rather than preventing current and future harm. It's time to start suing the malefactors. Make them pay extensive damages for destroying the people's capital at Well 15 and other polluted wells. It's the only way to put a stop to it and bring justice for their past nastiness. Future polluters will be deterred. But right now, your lax attitude toward polluters signals: Pollute away!

Publicize St. Tammy's promotion of deathmachines in our skies, pollution in our waters. Make Mark Pocan the poster child of contamination. Wake up Sleeping Fred so he can know what his F-35s are really about.

Bring shame upon them all for wrecking our drinking water.

And set the limit for PFAS at 20 ppt at least until the DNR gets their act together.

Most sincerely,

Michael Barrett
2137 Sommers Ave.
Madison, WI 53704

From: Mary Jo Walters
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 10:20 AM
To: Water <water@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: PFAS clean up/task force

We need the water utility to continue testing the wells and start clean ups of PFAS. I support any task force that can move these actions forward.

A ban on the use of PFAS is needed. This email is my public testimony for this afternoons meeting. Thank you for writing a statement to the Air Force when there was the EIS comment period. Continue working on this important issue.

Mary Jo Walters
Madison

--

Mary Jo Walters
(608) 395-9011

waltersmaryjo@gmail.com

From: Karen Miskimen
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 10:31 AM
To: Water <water@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Comments for today's Water Utility Board meeting

I request that you:

- 1) Formally support DNR's proposals to develop Wisconsin drinking water, groundwater, and surface water PFAS standards.
- 2) While waiting for Wisconsin to develop PFAS standards, direct the WU to adopt Vermont's standard of 20 ppt for five PFAS as an interim policy, as we and the Greater Sandburg Neighborhood Association asked in August.
- 3) Discuss PFAS sources to wells and PFAS source reduction/elimination at future board meetings. While state and federal PFAS standards debates will continue for years, we should be doing something about known sources and preventing exposures to PFAS right now here in Madison.
- 4) To assess trends in PFAS levels over time, monitor the six wells with the highest levels (see above) quarterly and the wells found to have at least one PFAS at least twice a year.

Some items for future agendas:

-Documented PFAS in dewatering discharges in Reindahl Park next to Well 15 (being discharged to Starkweather Creek)

-Documented PFAS in groundwater at the former Burke sewage treatment plant (also discharging to Starkweather Creek)

-Sources of PFAS to Madison wells--especially those with the highest PFAS levels (6, 9, 11, 14, 15, 23).

-Working with the Madison Fire Department to switch to fluorine-free foams

- Identifying/eliminating the use of pesticides with PFAS in Madison/Dane County

Please do your best to protect and regain clean water for our community and yours!

In partnership,

Kären (park the "car in" the garage) Miskimen
She/Her/Hers

Unless someone like you
cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better.
It's not.
Dr. Seuss

From: Kester, Dolores
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 3:15 PM
To: 'Michael D. Barrett' <mikeb@urbanthoreau.com>; Water <water@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Rummel, Marsha <district6@cityofmadison.com>; Abbas, Syed <district12@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: RE: TOMORROW, PFAS on Tue. Water Utility Board agendaSASYNA-Discussions <SASYNA-Discussions@yahoogroups.com>

Hello Water Utility Board Members,

I agree with Mr. Barrett's well-stated concerns about PFAS in Madison.

At your meeting this evening, I am asking you to do the following:

- 1) Formally support DNR's proposals to develop Wisconsin drinking water, groundwater, and surface water PFAS standards to help guide decisions here (in line with Mayor Rhodes-Conway's letter of support).
- 2) Direct the WU to officially adopt Vermont's standard of 20 ppt for five PFAS as an interim policy while waiting for Wisconsin to develop PFAS standards supporting the request of the Greater Sandburg Neighborhood Association, and as we asked in our July 23 and August 27 comments.

There has to be accountability for this contamination of our drinking water and it starts with you, please begin by setting clear and enforceable standards for Madison. The time is now.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully,

Dolores Kester
1818 Winchester St,
Madison WI 53704
Aldermanic District 12

From: Laura Olah <info@cswab.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 4:17 PM
To: Water <water@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Public Comments: Water Utility Board

SENT BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Good day,

Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger (CSWAB) was organized in 1990 when rural residents learned that private drinking water wells near Wisconsin's Badger Army Ammunition Plant had been contaminated with high levels of cancer-causing chemicals for decades. Nearly 30 years later, CSWAB continues its work to unify and strengthen citizens working for a healthy and sustainable future free of military and industrial toxins. CSWAB currently coordinates the PFAS Community Campaign –a statewide network of 34 Wisconsin organizations working together to prevent exposures to PFAS through drinking water and other pathways.

On behalf of CSWAB, I am writing today to encourage you to support for the State's proposed steps to identify and protect communities from exposure to PFAS by formally supporting DNR's proposals to develop Wisconsin drinking water, groundwater, and surface water PFAS standards.

As we are all aware, with the detection of PFAS in public and private drinking water supplies in the Madison area, some interim action is necessary to protect public health. While while we are waiting for Wisconsin to develop PFAS standards, we encourage the board to adopt Vermont's standard of 20 ppt for five PFAS as an interim policy.

We also support recommendations from community members to gather additional data to assess trends in PFAS levels over time, monitor those wells with the highest detected concentrations on a quarterly basis. This is a reasonable precaution given groundwater quality often varies from season to season.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments on this important matter.

Sincerely,
Laura Olah

--

Laura Olah | Executive Director

Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger | www.CSWAB.org

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November 26, 2019

Madison Water Utility Board
119 E. Olin Ave.
Madison, WI



Dear Board Members:

Thank you again for directing the Water Utility to test all Madison wells for 24-30 PFAS compounds after [we and other community residents requested it](#) last February.

The [Water Utility's final PFAS report](#), based on this testing, provides a wealth of valuable information about the types and levels of PFAS compounds in our drinking water wells. Thanks to Water Utility staff, especially Joe Grande, for facilitating this challenging testing, complex analyses of data, and putting together a clear and comprehensive report summarizing the findings.

While very valuable, this report doesn't put Madison's drinking water PFAS issues to rest. As you know, PFAS are "forever chemicals," so unfortunately they are not going away in our lifetimes. PFAS are extremely mobile in water, and will continue to spread in surface water and the aquifer under Madison, drawn in different directions by the varied pumping of our deep wells. In Minnesota PFAS plumes have traveled many miles in groundwater and surface water (with complex interactions between the two), spreading [over 130 square miles](#) (see pg. 16).

One of the key reasons we proposed testing all Madison wells was to identify potential sources of PFAS throughout Madison—not just near Truax Field. The plume emanating from Truax Field has spread for decades and will continue to do so indefinitely, likely affecting other wells (as the Minnesota experiences shows). There are also many other ongoing sources of PFAS to Madison wells and surface water that have not yet been identified or evaluated. Given this, adequate levels of continued monitoring are needed to assess PFAS trends in our wells over time.

While PFAS has been spreading in the environment for decades, debates about Wisconsin and federal standards are just beginning. As expected, industrial and municipal lobbying groups are pushing back on Wisconsin DNR's efforts to develop comprehensive PFAS standards for groundwater, drinking water, and surface water, arguing among other things, that adhering to more protective standards and more testing is too costly and we should wait for federal PFAS standards (which some have predicted will take about ten years). The development of state standards for just two PFAS (PFOS/PFOA) will take about 3 years and it will be many more years after that till state standards for the many other PFAS compounds found in our wells and surface water are developed.

While state and federal standards are under development over the next several years, PFAS sources in Madison—along with current human and environmental exposures to PFAS—should be identified and prevented as soon as possible. Costs and lack of standards should not be used as excuses not to protect health and the environment.

In this context, MEJO asks the Water Utility Board to:

- 1) Formally support DNR's proposals to develop Wisconsin drinking water, groundwater, and surface water PFAS standards** to help guide decisions here (in line with Mayor Rhodes-Conway's letter of support).
- 2) Direct the WU to officially adopt Vermont's standard of 20 ppt for five PFAS as an interim policy** while waiting for Wisconsin to develop PFAS standards supporting the request of the Greater Sandburg Neighborhood Association, and as we asked in our [July 23](#) and [August 27](#) comments.

In line with our requests, at the August 19, 2019 Water Utility Technical Advisory Committee meeting, most committee members supported adopting the Vermont standard as an interim standard (one of several options presented), but didn't officially support it at the end of the meeting, after one prominent member suggested waiting for DHS to evaluate more PFAS compounds (which will take years).

However, the [notes from this TAC meeting](#) (see pg. 15-16 of the pdf) say: "Individual polling conducted after the meeting showed broad support for employing the Vermont standard of 20 ng/L for 5 PFAS chemicals as an interim standard until the DHS evaluates the expected toxicity of a broader range of PFAS. The outcome of this choice is identical to keeping the well off-line until DHS staff completes its toxicological review of other PFAS compounds."

People we have talked to in the Greater Sandburg Neighborhood Association, the low income Truax neighborhood, and others in the Well 15 service area have expressed much relief that Well 15 is no longer providing their drinking water. We are concerned that though Well 15 is off, with no current policy prohibiting the Water Utility from turning it back without treatment, it might do so if the need arises. Last spring, after the Water Utility turned Well 15 off (before DHS proposed the 20 ppt standard) the WU and PHMDC said they believed Well 15 is safe and would turn it back on after the DHS standard was released. This did not happen, and August TAC meeting notes say "Well 15 remains off-line with no immediate plans to bring it back into service."

Relatedly, we are also concerned that we received no response to our [October 22 request](#) that the Water Utility share what the process will be for decisions about future Well 15 use (e.g., if the Water Utility wants/needs to turn the well back on, will people in the Well 15 service area be informed and have a say?). Adopting the Vermont standard would provide assurance and clarity for the community on what policy would guide this decision.

3) Discuss PFAS sources to wells, and ways to reduce/eliminate them, at future board meetings.

Now that the City-County PFAS Task Force we proposed in February has been tabled by the Common Council Executive Committee, and the county has apparently formed its own PFAS Working Group (whose members are unknown and meetings non-public) (see BCC [here](#)), the Water Utility Board remains one of the only places where the public can provide input and raise questions about critical PFAS issues that will challenge our drinking water and health for generations.

Future board agendas should include (as we asked in our [July 23](#) and [August 27](#) comments):

- PFAS in ongoing dewatering discharges in Reindahl Park next to Well 15
- PFAS in groundwater at the former Burke sewage treatment plant south of the airport
- Working with the Madison Fire Department to switch to fluorine-free foams
- Identifying/eliminating the use of pesticides with PFAS in Madison/Dane County
- Other sources of PFAS to Madison wells--especially those with the highest PFAS levels—and how to eliminate or mitigate them.

4) Direct the Water Utility to increase frequency of planned PFAS monitoring. The current plan of once a year testing for all wells is inadequate. More than once a year monitoring is needed to adequately assess trends in PFAS levels over time, especially in different seasons/years as some wells are off (Well 15) and so other wells on the north/east sides will be pumping harder, drawing the plume originating at Truax Field and other as yet unidentified PFAS sources more strongly in their direction. We propose that wells found to have at least one detectable PFAS should be tested twice a year and wells with the highest levels (e.g., 9, 23, 15 if/when on) should be tested quarterly. We realize that this testing is costly but feel that it is worth it to detect any significant increases in PFAS levels in wells and take steps to address them sooner than later.

Thank you very much for considering our comments.

/s/ **Maria Powell, Executive Director, MEJO**