



April 10, 2019

The Honorable Mayor Paul Soglin
Mayor's Office
201 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Room 403
Madison, WI 53703

The Honorable Mayor-elect Satya Rhodes-Conway
City of Madison Municipal Building
215 Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd., Room 202 – Transition Office)
Madison, WI 53703

Tom Heikkinen, Director
Madison Water Utility
119 East Olin Avenue
Madison, WI 53713

Subject: Pilot Project to Review Land Uses Near Madison Wells 15 and 16

Dear Mayor Soglin, Mayor-elect Rhodes-Conway and Director Heikkinen:

Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance (PFAS) compounds are a class of emerging contaminants that are being found across the country and affecting public and private drinking water supplies. The characteristics that make these compounds useful in a variety of consumer products make them difficult to address once they have been released to the environment.

The Department of Natural Resources ("department") is aware of the presence of PFAS compounds in Madison municipal wells 15 and 16 and your recent decision to take well 15 off line temporarily. I am sure this was a difficult decision as municipal wells are a vital asset to communities.

Determining the source of PFAS compounds found in a well is a difficult task because PFAS compounds were and are used in so many different products and industrial uses. To assist the city in determining potential sources of PFAS to municipal wells 15 and 16, the department is undertaking a pilot project to review past and present land uses near these wells.

The department will hire a contractor at state expense to complete this analysis for wells 15 and 16. The results of the completed analysis will be shared with the city and the public.

Governor Evers has declared 2019 to be the Year of Clean Drinking Water. This pilot project is an example of the department's efforts to raise water quality issues to the forefront and assist Madison in its mission to provide safe, reliable water to your community.

The department is committed to working collaboratively with the city and water utility throughout this study and on any next steps. Please contact Mark Aquino at 608-275-3262 or Mark.Aquino@wisconsin.gov if you have questions about this project.

Sincerely,



Preston D. Cole
Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

cc Senator Tammy Baldwin
 Congressman Mark Pocan
 State Senator Mark Miller
 Representative Chris Taylor
 Representative Melissa Sargent
 Dane County Executive Joe Parisi
 Mary Bottari, Chief of Staff, Mayor-elect Rhodes-Conway
 Alder Samba Baldeh
 Alder Keith Furman
 Joe Grande, Madison Water Utility
 Darsi Foss – DNR, AD/8
 Mark Aquino – DNR, Fitchburg
 Ben Van Pelt – DNR, AD/8