



October 23, 2019

Mr. Gary Gunderson  
Gunderson Cleaners, Inc.  
41 Main Street  
Menasha, WI 54952-3198

Subject: PFAS Sampling Requirements  
Gunderson Cleaners Inc., 118 High Avenue, Oshkosh WI  
BRRTS #: 02-71-467002

Dear Mr. Gunderson:

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has identified the Gunderson Cleaners Inc site as a potential source for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). DNR believes this emerging contaminant may be present in soil and groundwater on your property identified above. The DNR has regulatory authority to ask responsible parties to evaluate hazardous substance discharges and environmental pollution including emerging contaminants:

- Wis. Stat. § 292.01 (3) "Discharge" means, but is not limited to, spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying or dumping.
- Wis. Stat. § 292.01 (4) "Environmental pollution" means contaminating ... air, land, or waters of the state or making the same injurious to public health ...
- Wis. Stat. § 292.01 (5) "Hazardous substance" means any substance ... which may pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment because of its quantity, concentration or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics ...

### Background

This site has been occupied by a dry-cleaning and fabricare facility since the 1920s. An open contamination case with the DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment Program titled Gunderson Cleaners Inc. is tracked as BRRTS #: 02-71-467002. Soil and groundwater contamination resulted from a hazardous substance discharge of chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOCs). The use of PFAS has been associated with dry-cleaning and fabricare operations both nationally and in Wisconsin; this site may be a source of PFAS contamination.

### Site Investigation

Information previously provided for this facility indicates a discharge of hazardous substances from dry-cleaning and fabricare activities. As stated above, dry-cleaning and fabricare operations have been historically linked to PFAS use and/or manufacture. Site investigation scoping (Wis. Admin. Code § NR 716.07) and the site investigation work plan (Wis. Admin. Code § NR 716.09) require an evaluation of the history of the facility, previous discharges, and uses on the site that may be associated with discharges of hazardous substances.

The DNR has the authority under the Wis. Admin. Code NR 700 series to require the evaluation of PFAS at this site. According to Wis. Admin. Code § NR 716.09, the DNR requires that you submit a site investigation work

plan that includes assessment of PFAS and per Wis. Admin. Code § NR 716.07 (4), all environmental media affected or potentially affected by the contamination must be evaluated.

As stipulated in Wis. Admin. Code § NR 716.07 and Wis. Admin. Code § NR 716.09, the work plan should include a written evaluation of potential PFAS compounds that were historically or are presently produced, used, handled, or stored at the site. The evaluation should include any available information on whether any products containing PFAS were utilized in any process services, the duration of PFAS use, the type of PFAS utilized, and any areas of the site where PFAS may have been used, stored, or discarded. The site investigation work plan must include a groundwater sampling program for evaluating PFAS compounds at the site.

### Schedule

The DNR is requesting that you submit a "Site Investigation Work Plan for PFAS" by January 3, 2020.

The DNR appreciates your efforts to restore the environment at this site. If you have any questions regarding anything outlined in this letter, or would like to arrange a meeting, please contact me, the DNR Project Manager, at 920-424-7890, or at [kevin.mcknight@wisconsin.gov](mailto:kevin.mcknight@wisconsin.gov).

Sincerely,



Kevin D. McKnight  
Hydrogeologist  
Remediation & Redevelopment Program

cc: Matt Dahlem, Fehr Graham ([mdahlem@fehr-graham.com](mailto:mdahlem@fehr-graham.com))  
Don Gallo, Axley ([dgallo@axley.com](mailto:dgallo@axley.com))