

August 13, 2019

Subject: Contamination Detected Municipal Well #7

Pertinent to your request ABX is providing the following information pertaining to the PFAS issue:

**History of land use:**

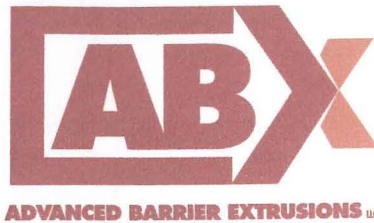
The ABX site was originally forested property owned by a farmer. There appears to be no evidence of development of the property or land use for farming purposes. The property was then owned by the Oneida County Airport and was undeveloped.

In 2005 the property was purchased by the Northeast Wisconsin Development Corporation (NWDC) and the site was developed for building of ABX's facility in late 2005/early 2006. Soils were removed to level a portion of the property and moved to other portions of the lot and adjacent property. A 30,000 square foot building was completed, and the site was leased from NWDC by ABX. ABX added 30,000 square feet of building to the site in 2011. In 2012 ABX added another 15,000 square feet of building, and in 2015 ABX purchased the land and building from NWDC. ABX has had no wells or septic drain fields on the site and has found no evidence of such during site preparation. Stormwater runoff is controlled and directed to a holding pond per DNR requirements, and ABX has a certificate of no exposure under the stormwater program.

**Manufacturing on property:**

ABX receives plastic pellets in RR cars, gaylords (large boxes) and bags. The pellets are run through extrusion systems that melt the pellets and produce film rolls that are slit into proper sizes and sent to ABX's customers. The raw materials are chemically inert in most environmental situations. ABX has strong systems in place to prevent the introduction of the pellets into the environment and there are no chemicals consumed in the process. A few solvents are used in handheld size containers for maintenance and cleaning. These are stored in closed cabinets and properly controlled to minimize introduction into the environment. ABX does not generate hazardous waste.

ABX uses cooling water in the system in a closed loop process with chillers. If this water is flushed it is discharged into the sewer system wastewater stream of the City of Rhinelander. ABX has not had any documented hazardous substances issues, spills, or groundwater or surface contamination issues during its operation and is not aware of any during any prior owner's ownership or occupation of the property.



### **Environmental Investigations or Remedial Efforts**

ABX has not had any environmental sampling, testing or remedial efforts.

### **Overview**

The noted chemicals are not compatible with ABX's process. We are unaware of any use or storage of PFAS compounds by ABX or any past owners or occupants of the property.

We have requested that our suppliers confirm that they do not have PFAS's in the resin they ship to ABX. Our primary suppliers have confirmed this with legalize that they do not add this chemical but do not test for it. We are awaiting further confirmation from all suppliers but expect the same for the few that have not provided confirmation to date. I have included some samples of the supplier's statements for your review. If ABX receives notification that any supplier uses this chemical in our raw materials, we will inform your office of such notice.

Steve Pawelko

VP of Operations

## PFAS Resin (raw material) comments from ABX suppliers

Is not intentionally added or used as raw materials.

Resin is not intentionally manufactured or formulated with the PFAS, however no analysis for its presence.

Does not intentionally add Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs).

The fact that these substances are not used as functional components does not exclude that trace levels of this substance may be present as a result of the specific characteristics of the raw materials and/or of the manufacturing processes used for the polymers/raw materials used.

Not intentionally introduced into these polymer grades. Trace levels of these substances may be unintentionally present, or may result from the specific characteristics of raw materials and of the polymerization processes used for the manufacturing of grades or may result from the thermal decomposition of the resins.

State of Wisconsin  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
107 Sutfill Avenue  
Rhineland WI 54501-3349

Tony Evers, Governor  
Preston D. Cole, Secretary  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463  
TTY Access via relay - 711



**CERTIFIED MAIL/RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

July 25, 2019

Advanced Barrier Extrusions (ABX)  
Attn: Tony Haug  
4390 Anderle Drive  
Rhineland, WI 54501

SUBJECT: Contamination Detected (Municipal Well #7), Rhineland, Wisconsin  
WDNR BRRTS # 02-44-584094

Dear Mr. Haug:

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources ("the Department") was recently notified of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) detected in Rhineland's Municipal Well #7. As part of the on-going investigation, the Department is looking for potential sources of this contamination, of which your property at 4390 Anderle Drive has been identified, due to its proximity to Municipal Well #7.

PFAS compounds are a class of man-made chemicals. They can be found in firefighting foam (AFFF) products, dust suppressants used in chrome plating, stain repellants such as *Scotchgard*, and in the manufacturing of non-stick cookware, specialty papers, textiles (waterproof fabrics, tanneries), and personal care products.

The Department is investigating whether you and any past owners or occupants of your property may potentially be responsible for causing or contributing to the PFAS contamination in Municipal Well #7. The Department is sending this letter to request any information that you can provide regarding the use or storage of PFAS compounds by yourself or other past owners or occupants of your property.

The Department also requests that you provide us with a history of the owners, occupants and land uses of your property. Please provide any information that you may have as to any manufacturing that occurred on your property in the past and the years of its operation. Also include a description of any documented hazardous substance spills, groundwater or surface water contamination, and any environmental investigation or remediation efforts that have occurred on your property. Please provide any additional information that may aid in determining the source of contamination of the above-referenced site.

**Within (30) thirty days of receipt of this notice, please provide me with a letter containing the information requested above.** This information is requested by the Department under the authority of Wisconsin Statute sections 292.11(7) (a) and s. 292.11(8).

Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated. If you have any questions regarding the content of this letter, please contact me at (715) 365-8942 or by email at [Carrie.Stoltz@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Carrie.Stoltz@Wisconsin.gov)

Sincerely,

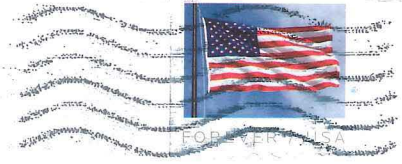
Carrie Stoltz  
Hydrogeologist  
Remediation & Redevelopment Program

cc: Chris Saari – DNR Ashland (via email)  
Mark Pauli – DNR Rhinelander (via email)  
James Yach – DNR Rhinelander (via email)  
Aryn Webster – DNR Rhinelander (via email)  
Austin Griesbach – DNR Rhinelander (via email)  
Linda Conlon- Oneida County Health Department (via email)  
Disa Patel – Department of Health Services (via email)

ADVANCED BARRIER EXTRUSIONS, LLC  
4390 ANDERLE DRIVE  
PO BOX 1249  
RHINELANDER, WI 54501

GREEN BAY WI 549

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*Rec'd  
8/16/19  
-CSH/2*

State of Wisconsin  
Department of Natural Resources  
107 Sutcliffe Avenue  
Rhinelander, WI  
54501

54501-394907

