



Rhinelander/Oneida County Airport

Matthew J. Leitner, Director
Sherrie L. Williamson, Assistant Director

www.flyrhinelander.com

EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Ms. Carrie Stoltz
Hydrogeologist, Department of Natural Resources
107 Sutliff Ave
Rhinelander, WI 54521

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

Dear Ms. Stoltz:

This letter is in follow-up to our video conference call on September 17, 2020 and supplements and corrects my August 2, 2019 response to your request for information related to Municipal Well #7, Rhinelander, Wisconsin.

In my August 2, 2019 letter I explained the testing protocols followed for mandatory Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) testing of airport firefighting capabilities and aqueous firefighting foam (AFFF) on hand. I explained that live fire drills were always conducted with just water. I also explained that as part of mandatory testing, between 2 to 4 gallons of AFFF would be released into a container. This test is also an FAA mandate. All foam released during this testing is placed into a tote for storage and off-site disposal. The tote is stored indoors in a secure location.

During our September 17 call, I realized that one of the statements in my August 2, 2019 letter may have been unclear. All AFFF released from the turret of the fire truck is collected in a container. When I wrote, "AFFF not collected on the ramp is released to the nearest

storm water drain..." I meant to indicate that if any AFFF were not collected during these tests, it would flow to the storm sewer. We have no record and no institutional knowledge that any AFFF was ever released to the tarmac or from there, to the storm sewer. (I should also clarify that at the time of my letter, I thought that the storm sewer flowed to the City of Rhinelander municipal treatment works. I now understand that the storm sewer that serves the airport is separate from and not connected to the Rhinelander POTW.)

The storm sewer flows down gradient and in the opposite direction of S. Fox Ranch Rd. That area is at least a mile to the west of the airport terminal and significantly uphill from the airport terminal and the area where AFFF testing is conducted.

I apologize for any confusion that may have been caused by the original wording of my August 2, 2019 letter. In summary, AFFF testing is mandated by the FAA, and the Rhinelander-Oneida Airport complies with those mandates. Only a small amount of AFFF foam is released from the nozzle of a fire truck during this mandatory testing, and the foam has always been containerized and properly disposed of off-site. No AFFF has ever been used to fight an aircraft or other fire at the Airport and no AFFF has ever been released to the tarmac, the storm sewer, or larger environment. Even if any of this foam would have reached the tarmac, it would have flowed into a storm sewer which is down gradient and of and far removed from the Municipal Well #7 area.

Thank you again for meeting with us on September 17, and for giving us this opportunity to clarify our earlier submission. Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please distribute this within the Department as appropriate.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Leitner", followed by the date "9/29/2020". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew J. Leitner
Airport Director