

From: Mott, Andrew <Andrew.Mott@aecom.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2022 5:05 PM
To: Stoltz, Carrie R - DNR
Cc: Saari, Christopher A - DNR; Henderson, David; Dean, Janel; Zach Vruwink; Matthew Leitner; 'Lewandowski, Richard'; Steve Sorenson; Michael Fugle; Chris Frederickson
Subject: Rhinelander Municipal Well 7 and 8 PFAS Potable Well Sampling Update
Attachments: PFAS PROPERTY OWNER INTRO LETTER.pdf

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Dear Carrie,

The Rhinelander Municipal Well 7 and 8 PFAS Team would like to provide an update on the current standing of the potable well sampling and SI Work Plan. Following the WDNR approval of the PFAS Area Wide Potable Well Investigation Work Plan the Team developed a final letter for notification and request of well sampling (see attached) to be mailed to the private well owners listed in the Work Plan. The letters were mailed on January 7, 2022 and as of January 18, 2022 only six letters were received back. Four indicating approval of the sampling, one not approving, and one not fully completing the response form. In an effort to have a full response from the well owner's the Team will be sending out a second round of letters on January 28, 2022, and consider additional communication options to include enlisting the Township's assistance with contacting the well owners. The goal is to have a majority of residence respond prior to scheduling sampling team activities. The Team will continue to move forward with the well sampling program while dealing with limited staff due to Covid. The site investigation work plan for the airport property is current being reviewed by the Team.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you

Andrew

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City of Rhineland, Oneida County, Rhineland Oneida County Airport

January 6, 2022

RE: Private Potable Well Sampling for PFAS

Dear Resident:

The City of Rhineland, Oneida County and Rhineland Oneida County Airport (the Group) is conducting sampling of potable (drinking water) wells in your area due to the potential presence of groundwater contaminated with per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS). The Group has identified your property as being potentially eligible for sampling and is requesting that you provide additional information about any drinking watersupply wells on your property.

In 2019 the City of Rhineland discovered PFAS at Municipal Wells #s 7 & 8. At this time, the source and extent of contamination is unknown. The Group is conducting sampling of potable wells in the area to help identify the presence or absence of PFAS and will inform you of the sampling results.

The Group is requesting that you complete the enclosed forms, including the *Potable Well Survey* and an *Access Permission Agreement*. The well survey is a questionnaire that will provide us with information about the well(s) on your property, where to sample your well, and your contact information so that we can coordinate a time with you to sample your potable well. The access agreement is a document that gives the Group permission to sample the well on your property. There will be no cost to you to have your well sampled if you agree in writing to participate in this sampling event.

If you choose to participate in the complimentary sampling program:

- Complete attached *Potable Well Survey*,
- Complete the *Access Permission Agreement*, and
- Return forms to the City of Rhineland Utilities office by January 17th

Following receipt of the forms, we will follow up with you to coordinate a sampling date and time.

You are not required to have your well sampled; however, the DNR recommends that you participate in the sampling program and have your well sampled to provide detailed information about potential PFAS in your drinking water. **If you choose to opt-out of the sampling program, please ~~at~~ the *Potable Well Survey* indicating you are opting out.**

Additional information regarding the sampling objectives, activities, and next steps are included in the attached Frequently Asked Questions. If you have any questions concerning the information in this letter, please contact the Rhineland Utility Department via telephone at 715-365-8600 or via email at pfasrhineland@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

City of Rhineland

Oneida County

Rhineland Oneida County Airport

Frequently Asked Questions

Potable Well Sampling – Expanded Site Investigation Area

1. What is a potable well?

The term “potable well” refers to a well that is used as a water source for drinking water and cooking. Potable wells have different construction standards than some other wells such as irrigation wells or livestock wells. Most wells connected to a family residence are potable wells.

2. Why is the DNR encouraging potable well sampling?

The DNR is encouraging potable well sampling due to potential risk associated with per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS).

To better understand the extent of PFAS contamination in groundwater and potential exposure to the community, the DNR encourages sampling potable wells to ensure that community residents have accurate information regarding potential PFAS in their potable wells that may contain PFAS from contaminated groundwater.

3. What will the Group be testing my water for? The Group will be testing drinking water for 33 PFAS compounds. PFAS are a large group of human-made chemicals that have been used in industry, firefighting foams, and consumer products worldwide since the 1950s.

4. Who will conduct the sampling of my well?

The GROUP has retained the services of a qualified contractor, AECOM, to assist the City’s Utility staff to conduct the sampling activities.

5. At what levels are PFAS considered unsafe?

In 2016, the United States Environmental Protection Agency established cumulative - lifetime health advisories for two widely produced and studied PFAS (perfluorooctane sulfonate [PFOS] and perfluorooctanoic acid [PFOA]), at 70 parts per trillion (ppt). At the request of the DNR and in accordance with the state’s groundwater law, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) reviewed scientific literature and recommended groundwater enforcement standards for 17 PFAS individually or combined (i.e., Cycle 10 and Cycle 11 recommendations).

Currently, the state of Wisconsin only has recommended health standards for 17 of the 33 PFAS that will be tested for in your water. For more information regarding the Wis. Admin. Code ch. NR 140 rule process that is addressing Wisconsin’s standards for PFAS, please review the DNR website: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Groundwater/NR140.html>

6. Am I required to have my well sampled?

Participation in sampling is voluntary. The Group will only sample wells where landowners return both a *Potable Well Survey* and a signed *Access Permission Agreement* giving their consent to sample. The DNR strongly encourages residents to have their potable well sampled at this time. Having your well tested will inform you of potential PFAS exposure risk at your property.

If you opt-out of sampling, the Group requests that you complete the *Potable Well Survey*

indicating you would not like your well sampled. The survey should be returned as soon as possible. Alternatively, you can email a copy of the completed *Potable Well Survey*, to the Group at the following email address: pfasrhinelander@gmail.com.

7. Do I have to pay for sampling my well?

No. Within the Site Investigation Area, the sampling and associated laboratory analysis will be completed by the Group at no cost to you as the well owner.

8. How long will sampling well take?

The sample team will discuss sampling protocols with you prior to sampling your well. In most circumstances, sampling personnel will be on your property for less than an hour.

9. Will the sample team need to enter my home?

Upon receipt of a signed *Access Permission Agreement*, the Group will contact you to discuss the components of your individual water system (i.e., water treatment systems, softeners, etc.), to determine the most appropriate sampling location(s), and the schedule for sampling your well.

The preferred sampling location is before the pressure tank typically located in your basement or utility room. In some cases, the sampling team can collect samples from outdoor spigots that provide untreated water.

If you are unsure about your water system, sampling representatives may need to enter the basement/utility room to evaluate the system and select the most appropriate sampling location. Any need to enter a property would be discussed during the initial coordination call and approved prior to on-site arrival.

10. How long before results are available?

Well owners can expect to receive results within 30-days of the sampling event.

11. What happens if my drinking water has PFAS above the levels recommended by the Department of Health Services?

The Group will notify well owners within 24 hours of receipt of analytical results that are above the DHS recommended groundwater quality enforcement standards. If your well has PFAS above the proposed enforcement standards, the Group will contact you regarding a temporary supply of drinking water to be provided by the Group to you, within the guidelines of state law.

12. Will the GROUP provide me with an alternative water source if PFAS is detected in my well?

Well owners with PFAS above the proposed DHS enforcement standards in their drinking water may be eligible for a temporary drinking water supply.

For additional information: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS>

POTABLE (DRINKING WATER) WELL SURVEY

(Return in the envelope)

Tax ID Parcel Number: _____

Name (Owner): _____

Name (Occupant): _____

Property Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different): _____

Contact Number: (Owner) _____ (Occupant) _____

1) From where do you obtain your drinking water?

- a) Municipal Water Supply
- b) Private Well Water

2) If you have a water well or wells, please answer the following questions:

- a) How many water wells do you have on your property? _____
- b) How many of your water wells are used as a drinking water source? _____
- c) Are all the wells on your property currently in use? Yes No
- d) If no, is the well(s) that is not in use usable, unusable, or sealed?
Usable Unusable Sealed

If multiple wells are not in use, please describe:

- e) Please check all that apply regarding the usage of your well water:
Potable* Irrigation Livestock Other _____

*Potable refers to drinking water consumed by humans

- f) Where are the well/wells located on your property (please describe): _____

- g) When was the well/wells installed (if known)? _____
- h) What are the depths of the well/wells (if known)? _____

i) What are the diameters of the wells (if known)? _____

j) Do you have a copy of the well construction form or boring log? Yes No

If Yes, please include a copy of the form if you are able.

k) Do you have any treatment on your well(s) (e.g., water softener, iron filtration system, reverse osmosis system)?

Please describe:

l) Do you have any other information regarding your wells/water system that may assist our sampling efforts?

Please describe:

3) Sample Permission

Does the Group have your permission to sample your potable water supply well?

Yes No Not Applicable (e.g. no drinking water well on property)

If you circle **Yes**, you agree to opt-into the sampling program and are required to complete the attached *Access Permission Agreement*. **Please return the Potable Well Survey and the Access Permission Agreement as soon as possible.** Upon receipt of this information, the City of Rhinelander will contact you to coordinate the sampling.

If you select **No**, please submit the *Potable Well Survey*. The Group will record your response and no further action is required.

If the Group receives no response from you, you may receive additional requests to have your well sampled.

If you select **Not Applicable**, please explain:

Signature

Date

ACCESS PERMISSION AGREEMENT
for
POTABLE WATER SUPPLY WELL SAMPLING

I, *print name* _____ hereby give my permission to the City of Rhinelander, Oneida County, and Rhinelander Oneida County Airport (the "Group") and its employees, duly authorized representatives, agents and contractors, to enter upon and have access at reasonable times to property located at *print address* (street address, city, zip) _____ within Oneida County, Wisconsin, referred to herein as the "Property", and that is owned and/or occupied by *print name* _____, so that the Group may:

(1) Conduct a site visit (or visits)¹ for the purpose of collecting a water sample from drinking water supply well(s) on the referenced property.

No investigative waste will be generated or temporarily stored on the Property as part of the sampling activities.

The permission that is granted herein shall remain in effect until June 30, 2022. After sampling is complete, if the owner of the Property wishes to withdraw permission for continued access, the owner of the Property shall notify the department of that fact in writing.

The Group will report all sampling results to the owner of the Property, and occupants as appropriate, within 10 business days of receiving the sample results from the laboratory.

¹ The Group intends to conduct a single site visit to the referenced property to collect a drinking water sample and any associated quality assurance samples; however, in the circumstance that additional samples are required to be collected from the property, an additional site visit may be required. Should additional sampling be required, the Group will discuss the need with the Property Owner and will coordinate the additional site visit in accordance with the terms outlined within this Access Permission Agreement.

