



## Office of the Mayor

Satya Rhodes-Conway, Mayor

City-County Building, Room 403  
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703  
Phone: (608) 266-4611  
Fax: (608) 267-8671  
[mayor@cityofmadison.com](mailto:mayor@cityofmadison.com)  
[www.cityofmadison.com](http://www.cityofmadison.com)

December 6, 2019

Christine Haag, Director  
Mike Schmoller, Project Manager  
Remediation and Redevelopment Program  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
2911 Fish Hatchery Road  
Fitchburg, WI 53711-5367

Dear Ms. Haag and Mr. Schmoller,

I am writing to submit a summary of the City of Madison's follow-up to the October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Responsible Party Letter to the City of Madison, Dane County, and the Air National Guard regarding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in Starkweather Creek (BRRTS Activity #02-13-584369). The City took the lead in coordinating public information efforts regarding the PFAS contamination in Starkweather Creek, including the following:

- Working with Public Health of Madison and Dane County (PHMDC) to send a notification letter to residents adjacent to the creek;
- Coordinating City Engineering staff and PHMDC to develop and install over thirty notification signs in three languages along the creek; and
- Working with PHMDC to place a notification in the newspaper.

The City and PHMDC, in consultation with WDNR, completed action on these three above steps the week of December 2, 2019. We also plan to continue working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on public information and additional creek testing if necessary after reviewing the results of the additional creek samples and fish tissue samples. At a minimum, we plan to install revised signs and host a public meeting in an Eastside neighborhood near Starkweather Creek to answer resident questions. The City and PHMDC are committed to protecting the public health in and around the Starkweather Creek area.

At this time, the City does not believe there is sufficient evidence to indicate that it should be named as a responsible party for the Darwin and Dane County burn pit site investigations. Although the City did own the Darwin burn pit until 1974, we believe the firefighting foams being used at that time were protein-based foams that were free of PFAS. In addition, former City employees have indicated that the Madison Fire Department did not use the Darwin burn pit for training exercises. While the City did occasionally practice using the short-lived Dane County burn pit, it did so using the burn pit owned and constructed by the County under the training supervision of the Wisconsin Air National Guard

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(ANG), and was one of numerous fire departments in the region that occasionally practiced there under ANG supervision. The City's responsibility for that site should be no different than any fire department in the region – none of whom were similarly named in the responsible party letter. If the City does have any responsibility for either of these sites, it should be determined through the appropriate legal channels for determining proportional responsibility, especially when both the property owner (Dane County) and site operator (ANG) are identifiable and solvent.

The City understands that Dane County has hired a consultant and expect that the DNR should be receiving an investigation plan from the County. The City will continue to focus its response efforts on investigating historical uses of the sites, sharing public information, and identifying other potential sources of PFAS contamination along Starkweather Creek.

Sincerely,



Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway

Cc:

Joe Parisi, Dane County Executive

Kim Jones, Dane County Airport

Captain Matthew Shaw, Wisconsin Air National Guard