



April 9, 2021

City of La Crosse  
Mayor Tim Kabat  
400 La Crosse St  
La Crosse, WI 54601

La Crosse County  
County Board Chair Monica Kruse  
212 6<sup>th</sup> Street North, Suite 2400  
La Crosse, WI 54601

**SUBJECT:** Response to *Re: City of La Crosse, Wisconsin – PFAS* letter requests dated March 10, 2021 received from both the City of La Crosse and La Crosse County  
La Crosse Airport PFAS Investigation  
BRRTS # 02-32-587347  
Town of Campbell PFAS Investigation  
BRRTS # 02-32-587311

Dear Mayor Kabat and County Board Chair Kruse,

Thank you for your letters of March 10, 2021, requesting the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) assist in addressing concerns regarding per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) contamination on French Island. The DNR appreciates the city of La Crosse's (the City) efforts to investigate and provide safe drinking water to affected residences on French Island and understands the various complexities and challenges inherent to a project of this scope. We look forward to continued progress with the City's ongoing investigation.

You requested that the state immediately support the communities in four ways. As of the date of this letter, the DNR has taken the following actions to address the request for immediate support:

***(1) Immediate testing to determine the extent of PFAS contamination in the La Crosse community, including in private wells in the Town of Campbell***

The DNR and its contractor, Wood Environmental and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc., are evaluating the available information – including existing private sampling results and location of over 90 additional wells sampled to date – to develop a sampling plan for a subset of the Island's private water supply wells. Based on sampling results, the state will determine whether to continue or modify the interim, area-wide drinking water advisory for PFAS. This effort will take up to 90 days. For those whose wells will be sampled as part of this focused investigation, DNR and its contractor, Wood Environmental, will be contacting selected residents for access.

***(2) Assessment of each of the sources of contamination***

The DNR expects that the city will investigate all known sources that are attributable to the city. If additional sources are suspected or identified, the DNR will work with responsible parties to address them.

***(3) Provision of temporary water to all affected residents in the community pursuant to NR 738***

On March 25, 2021, at the request of DNR, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) issued an interim area-wide drinking water health advisory for French Island based on well sample results throughout the Town of Campbell.

The DHS interim advisory allows the DNR to provide temporary emergency water upon request, under Wis. Admin. Code NR 738 and Wis. Stat. § 292.11, to all residents of French Island effective the date of the advisory. Under Wis. Admin. Code NR 738 and Wis. Stat. § 292.11, the DNR will continue to supply temporary water to well owners for a maximum of six months, unless a variance is granted, or until such time as DHS amends the interim area-wide drinking water advisory for French Island, whichever is earlier.

***(4) Work with the community to design a long-term solution to providing clean water to La Crosse area residents and to remediate the contamination in the La Crosse area***

The DNR remains committed to working with all interested parties and will engage directly with the impacted residents and leadership to ensure an understanding of all potential long-term solutions. This may include facilitating discussions among the elected officials, residents, and local governments and any other potential partners to evaluate all available options.

Thank you for requesting DNR assistance and leadership in this matter. The DNR looks forward to working collaboratively with the city, the town, and the county to address the concerns on French Island. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact Christine Haag at [christine.haag@wisconsin.gov](mailto:christine.haag@wisconsin.gov) or 608-422-1148.

Sincerely,



For Preston D. Cole  
Secretary  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

CC: John Storlie, The OS Group