

Sellwood, Alyssa A - DNR

From: Denice Nelson <denice.karen.nelson@jci.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 3:52 PM
To: Sellwood, Alyssa A - DNR
Cc: Peotter, Jodie M - DNR
Subject: RE: Lake Noquebay Surface Water: PFAS Sampling

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Alyssa-

Thank you for your email. As you know, our Biosolids Work Plan is designed to determine if there is a connection between the application of City of Marinette biosolids and PFAS detections in area drinking water (wells). Per the Work Plan approved by WDNR, Tyco is currently working on the Phase 1 Desktop Document review to evaluate the history of all the fields that received biosolids from the City of Marinette. The data so far indicate that, with few exceptions, most of the fields have received biosolids either from the City of Marinette AND multiple other sources, or are located right next to a field with biosolids applied to it by parties other than the City of Marinette. As the WDNR is aware, the other biosolids sources include other municipal wastewater systems, pulp & paper industries, food industries, and/or septic service providers.

Phase 2 of our Work Plan includes conducting further investigation of fields chosen because they contain only biosolids from the City of Marinette. We will not be able to finalize the selection of fields until we have fully reviewed the documents that the WDNR just produced pursuant to our public record requests, any remaining documents that may be forthcoming from the WDNR pursuant to our pending public record requests, and we obtain more detail through outreach surveys to property owners. As a result, we currently don't know if there is PFAS from the City of Marinette biosolids affecting resources in the area proximate to the Lake and therefore testing the Lake itself is not currently in our Work Plan scope.

In addition, and as you are aware, the Phase 2 of the initial field data screening activities to be performed on the final selected fields is focused on the drinking water pathway and therefore, will include only soil and groundwater sample collection. The data collected from this effort will be used to evaluate local conditions, hydrogeology, and potential biosolid impacts. Given the complexity of the spreading of biosolids (from many parties), we believe it is important to take this iterative, data-driven approach. The results of the Phase 2 activities will be compiled into a report to the WDNR and will include discussion of proposed next steps, if any. Testing of surface water, including Lake Noquebay, is not planned at this time as it is not germane to our current scope and responsibility. However, if the WDNR finds this to be necessary, perhaps this is sampling the agency can undertake.

Since the foam shown in the pictures provided to us in your email are not of AFFF foam but are pictures of natural foam generated through naturally occurring biological processes, Tyco would urge the WDNR to educate the public on this important point and further clarify the nature and origin of foams on surface water bodies.

We anticipate submittal of the Phase 1 findings late fall/early winter, with Phase 2 field work either occurring late fall or early next Spring, dependent on the timing of the receipt of property owner survey responses and any remaining records from the WDNR.

Respectfully-

Denice Nelson
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From: Sellwood, Alyssa A - DNR <alyssa.sellwood@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 7:51 AM
To: Denice Nelson <denice.karen.nelson@jci.com>
Cc: Peotter, Jodie M - DNR <jodie.peotter@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Lake Noquebay Surface Water: PFAS Sampling

Denice –

On August 11, 2022, State Representative (Rep.) Jeff Mursau sent a letter to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to express concern for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination near fields where the city of Marinette's biosolids were landspread and to request testing for PFAS in Lake Noquebay and the surrounding area. Rep. Mursau's letter referenced surface water foam that property owners recently observed along the lakeshore of Lake Noquebay and his understanding that PFAS were detected in private drinking water wells located near the lake, which were sampled by JCI/Tyco for BRRTS 02-38-583856. Photos of the foam that accumulated on the shore of Lake Noquebay on July 13, 2022, which were provided to the Rep. Mursau and to the DNR, are attached.

In the [DNR's February 9, 2022](#) response to [JCI/Tyco's Preliminary Assessment for BRRTS 02-38-583856](#) the DNR requested that JCI/Tyco include surface water testing in the field investigation done for the Preliminary Assessment. Please respond within 5 business days of this email to advise if JCI/Tyco will collect surface water samples from Lake Noquebay and test them PFAS during the sampling activities expected to occur this fall for the Preliminary Assessment for BRRTS 02-38-583856.

Thank you-

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Alyssa Sellwood, PE (WI)

Pronouns: she/her/hers

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