

**TOWN OF STELLA
ONEIDA COUNTY
2496 CTH C
P.O. Box 1141
Rhineland, WI 54501**

Robert Goodin - Supervisor
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David Brunette - Chairman
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December 31, 2022

****VIA U.S. MAIL & ELECTRONIC MAIL****

Secretary Adam Payne
c/o Sarah Barry, Deputy Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster Street, P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921
Sarahkbarry@wisconsin.gov

James Yach, Secretary's Director for the Northern Region
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
107 Sutliff Avenue
Rhineland, WI 54501-3349
JamesA.yach@wisconsin.gov

Chris Saari, Northern Region Team Supervisor (Remediation & Redevelopment Program)
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
2501 Golf Course Road
Ashland, WI 54806-3505
christopher.saari@wisconsin.gov

RE: Town of Stella, Wisconsin – PFAS

Dear Secretary Payne, Mr. Yach, and Mr. Saari:

As you are aware, private wells in the Town of Stella have tested positive for Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances ("PFAS") at levels so high that the water can no longer be safely consumed by our residents. Moreover, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources ("DNR") discovered the PFAs in the wells during randomized testing conducted statewide.

I recognize that representatives from the State of Wisconsin attended a Town of Stella meeting on December 13, 2022, including Sarah Yang, Ph.D., from the Department of Health Services and Mr. Yach. However, the meeting did not provide the Town with any concrete guidance or instruct the Town how to handle this situation moving forward. Moreover, at this time,

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the Town has still not received further information regarding the DNR's findings, including the locations of the contaminated wells or the source of the contamination.

As such, the Town of Stella is requesting that the State of Wisconsin engage in a coordinated strategy to (1) test and identify the boundaries of contamination in the Town of Stella; (2) investigate and identify the source(s) of the contamination; and (3) provide our residents with safe drinking water, pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code ch. NR 738 and Wis. Stat. § 292.31, until a more permanent solution can be achieved. The Town of Stella also requests a meeting with the DNR within ten (10) business days to further discuss these issues.

The Town of Stella simply cannot address this situation without significant State assistance. It is imperative that the State provide us with the necessary funding and resources to address this issue. We simply do not have the resources or staff to administer the Temporary Emergency Water, pursuant to Wis. Admin Code ch. NR 738 and/or Wis. Stat. § 292.31. Our Town Board is comprised of myself, the chairman, and two supervisors. We also have a Town Clerk and a Town Treasurer. As a result, we are not in a position to serve our constituents and appropriately address the PFAS contamination on our own.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the State immediately support our Town in the following ways:

- 1) Immediate testing to determine the location of the contaminated wells.
- 2) Assessment of each source of contamination.
- 3) Provision of temporary water to all affected residents in the community, pursuant to NR 738, including the resources to administer the program.
- 4) Work with the Town to create a long-term solution to providing clean water to our residents and to remediate the contamination in our area.

We further request a meeting with DNR officials within the next ten (10) business days. We will make ourselves available and accommodate the DNR's schedule in order to discuss these issues with the State.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,



David Brunette
Chairman, Town of Stella

cc: Mr. Bob Goodin, Supervisor
Mr. Rich Hirman, Supervisor
Ms. Stacy Schickert, Clerk
Ms. Kathy Baker, Treasurer