



## Discovering PFAS contamination in Madison – A Timeline

- **December, 2012** Madison Water Utility (MWU) tested four wells for PFAS in advance of requirements to test all wells in 2015 under the EPA's Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule. No PFAS were detected.
- **Throughout 2015** (mostly in March and September) MWU tested all municipal wells as directed by the EPA under its Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule using testing guidelines specified by the agency. No PFAS were detected in any Madison well.
- **08/1/2017** MWU launched another round of tests using methods that were more sensitive after new studies showed there may be health effects at lower levels than the reporting limits established by the EPA. The Utility targeted five wells located near the airport or landfills, areas where PFAS are most likely to be found in groundwater. Re-testing was not required by the EPA.
- **9/14/2017** MWU received results from this round of testing that showed trace detections at Well 16 on Mineral Point Rd. (located near a former landfill) and Well 15 on East Washington Ave. (located near Truax Air Field).
- **10/19/2017** PFAS test results were presented to MWU's Water Quality Technical Advisory Committee along with technical information on PFAS and its impact on human health.
- **10/23/2017** MWU posted a web page highlighting PFAS testing results.
- **10/24/2017** PFAS detections were reported to the Water Utility Board through a routine staff report that discusses regulated and unregulated contaminants in water. (Two alders serve on the board, as does the Director of Environmental Health for Public Health Madison Dane County. The deputy mayor also regularly attends board meetings and was present at this one.)
- **10/31/2017** MWU notified alders in the Well 16 and Well 15 areas that a combined PFAS concentration of 0.0027 parts-per-billion had been detected at Well 16 and a combined PFAS concentration of 0.032 parts-per-billion had been detected at Well 15. There is no drinking water standard for perfluorinated compounds, but the EPA has established a lifetime Health Advisory Level of 0.07 parts-per-billion for the combined concentration of PFOA & PFAS, two of the many potential PFAS contaminants.
- **12/4/2017** MWU tested both wells once again and found similar concentrations.
- **03/09/2018** MWU launched another round of testing focused on Well 15 which included additional testing for a compound called perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA), which is often used in firefighting foams. (Results were received on 04/24/2018). PFHxA was detected at a

concentration of 0.0052 parts-per-billion, bringing the total PFAS concentration in Well 15 to 0.037 parts-per-billion.

- **03/30/2018** Madison Water Utility provided required water quality information to consecutive systems, including the Village of Maple Bluff, that receives water from MWU. Some of the village's water comes from Well 15. This information included draft language for the Utility's Annual Water Quality Report (also known as a Consumer Confidence Report) that discussed the low level detections of PFAS at Well 15. As required by State code, materials also were submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).
- **04/17/2018** Responding to PFAS detections at Well 15 reported in our correspondences with consecutive systems, DNR notified Madison Water Utility that PFOA and PFOS had been detected in shallow groundwater near Truax. Madison Water Utility requested additional information with regard to known PFAS contamination at Truax.
- **4/20/2018** The DNR provided MWU a "Notification For Hazardous Substance Discharge," dated 04/12/2018, which reported PFAS contamination in soil and groundwater at Truax Field. Wisconsin Air National Guard reported this "historic" spill. The DNR also provided MWU with a draft Site Investigation Report on perfluorinated compounds at Truax Air National Guard Base.
- **05/18/2018** Madison Water Utility released its [Annual Water Quality Report](#) to the public and media. The report included a highlighted section on Perfluorinated Compounds testing.
- **6/18/2018** Madison Water Utility initiated a groundwater study to evaluate the time of travel for PFAS contamination from Truax Field to Well 15 and to update the Well 15 capture zones to determine if Truax could be the source of contamination at Well 15.
- **07/27/2018** Madison Water Utility posted [an article](#) to its website's home page detailing PFAS detections at both wells. The article was also emailed to 1,661 people who signed up to receive MWU news.
- **9/10/2018** MWU completed the Well 15 groundwater study that concluded that contamination from Truax Field could be the source of PFAS at Well 15.
- **09/25/2018** Madison Water Utility and WI Air National Guard staff met to discuss fire-fighting and training practices as they relate to PFAS-containing foams; actions being taken to limit PFAS releases to the environment; and progress on investigating and remediating known and other possible (i.e. burn pits) sources of PFAS contamination on the base.
- **09/28/2018** Madison Water Utility reiterated its concern about PFAS contamination to WI Air National Guard and asked for an investigation into the off-site migration of PFAS to begin as soon as possible.
- **10/17/2018** Madison Water Utility launched yet another round of testing, again focused on Well 15. As of 12/7/2018, results have not yet been received.
- **11/28/2018** Mayor Paul Soglin sent a letter to Captain Shaw of the Wisconsin Air National Guard asking that the Guard prioritize further study of PFAS migration off the base and initiate environmental remediation. Mayor Soglin [released the letter to the public](#) along with the latest information about PFAS contamination near the base.