09/14/2021

PFAS Update-

Last week the DNR published the Wood Environmental groups PFAS test results of the 550+ tests which have been conducted on the island. It showed that roughly 13 locations which have been tested show no detectable levels of PFAS.

The 500+ tests include the OS Group which was hired by the City of La Crosse in initial PFAS studies, independent tests performed by residents and those the DNR contracted with Wood to do. If you have conducted testing on your own we encourage you to share your results with the ToC, if you haven't already done so.

A copy of the report is posted online. It gives address by address information about PFAS levels on the day the test was conducted.

We know from other communities in WI, plumes of PFAS contamination are affected by many things including ground water levels, river levels, seasonal changes and potentially other factors.

Water levels and conditions change daily. If you tested your drinking water everyday for a week you would see varying levels of contamination. That said, PFAS doesn't diminish over time. That is why we are on an island wide water advisory. The Culligan bottled water is the only water which we know does not have a level of PFAS associated with it.

The Senate passed the Multi-billion dollar infrastructure bill today which outlines funding for water infrastructure improvements. However, since the Senate made changes to the bill introduced by the House it now will need to go back to the House of Rep's for their approval before it can be approved by the President. It's not clear when House representatives will be called back to DC to do this, or if the House will make further changes possibly jeopardizing future passage of the bill.

I encourage every resident to contact all of their federal representatives and tell your personal story of PFAS contamination. Without your voice this is a sterile bill which has no gravity to those in Congress.

– make it known that safe drinking water should be a right in WI and nationwide.

Supervisor Lee Donahue