Press Release Supplement March 24, 2022

Regarding: Village of Weston PFAS Press Conference

What are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)? Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of human-made chemicals that are resistant to heat, water, and oil. These chemicals have been used for decades in many industrial applications and consumer products such as carpeting, waterproof clothing, upholstery, food paper wrappings, personal care products, fire-fighting foams, and metal plating. PFAS have been found at low levels both in the environment and in blood samples of the general U.S. population.

Potential Health Risks of PFAS. Long term exposure to high levels of the PFAS may increase cholesterol levels, reduce antibody levels, and reduce a woman's fertility. While some PFAS can affect health in a similar way, they are not equally harmful. For this reason, DHS uses a hazard index approach to assess the potential for health impacts from mixtures of PFAS. When the hazard index is too high, DHS recommends people take action to reduce their risk of health effects. D HS's webpage on PFAS (https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm) has more information about the hazard index, including a video describing what it is and how it is used to protect public health.

How does PFAS get into drinking water? PFAS can get into drinking water when products containing them are used or spilled onto the ground or into lakes and rivers as well as from manufacturing and disposal. PFAS move easily through the ground, getting into groundwater that is used for some water supplies or for private drinking water wells. When spilled into lakes or rivers used as sources of drinking water, they can get into drinking water supplies. PFAS in the air can also end up in rivers and lakes used for drinking water.

How people can be exposed to PFAS and why are they harmful? The main way that people are exposed to PFAS is by drinking water or eating food containing them. PFAS chemicals do not easily absorb into the skin so contact with water that contains PFAS poses a very low health risk. A large number of studies in people have examined possible relationships between levels of PFAS in blood and harmful health effects in people.

However, most of these studies analyzed only a small number of chemicals, and not all PFAS have the same health effects. This research suggests that high levels of certain PFAS may increase cholesterol levels, decrease how well the body responds to vaccines, and reduce fertility in women. Some other studies have indicated that high levels of certain PFAS may increase the risk of thyroid disease, increase the risk of serious conditions like high blood pressure or pre-eclampsia in pregnant women, and lower infant birth weights.

Alternative sources for water may include:

- Bottled water that has been purified or filtered.
- Other sources of water that have been tested for PFAS and do not have levels above recommended standards.
- Filtered water from a pitcher, sink or whole-house filter system with a certified filter technology.
  - A granular activated carbon (GAC) filter that meets ANSI/NSF Standard 53 or a reverse osmosis (RO) filter with an included GAC component can filter out PFAS. These numbers will be printed on the filter and/or packaging.
  - Information about removing PFAS from drinking water is available on the Village of Weston PFAS website located here www.westonwi.gov/PFAS .

Specific health information regarding PFAS compounds with health advisory recommendations in WI can be found at the Village's website www.westonwi.gov/PFAS and at the following:

- Dial 211 and follow the prompts for information regarding PFAS.
- https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/gws-cycle10.htm
- https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/gws-cycle11.htm
- https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm
- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) | US EPA
  https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Contaminants/PFAS.html

Sincerely,

Keith Donner, P.E.	*Michael Wodalski, P.E.*	*Joshua Swenson*
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