



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

November 2, 2016

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Via e-mail: sgeers@midwestadvocates.org.

Ms. Sarah Geers, Staff Attorney
Midwest Environmental Advocates
612 W Main Street, Suite 302
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Drinking Water Contamination in Kewaunee County

Dear Ms. Geers:

I am writing to follow-up on our October 11, 2016 meeting regarding the drinking water contamination concerns in Kewaunee County, WI. I want to thank you, Dean Hoegger, and Lynn Utesch for taking the time to travel to Chicago to discuss this important issue. EPA remains committed to working with all stakeholders in Kewaunee County to find both short-term and long-term solutions to address drinking water contamination.

With respect to short-term solutions, EPA is taking action on a number of fronts. First, we will engage with Wisconsin DNR and Kewaunee County regarding recommendations in the final Workgroup report focused on: 1) provisions in the Wisconsin Administrative Code (Chapter NR 738) for the provision of emergency supplies of water; and 2) the development of a County protocol to immediately provide a source of drinking water for well owner impacted by offsite contamination. Second, we will continue to evaluate and pursue options to make municipal sources of water available to residents with contaminated wells. Third, we will explore options to improve the *Water Well* program. Thank you for bringing citizen concerns about the program to our attention, both through our recent meeting and through conversations with Acting Regional Administrator Bob Kaplan. We are looking at whether there are options whereby a third-party could manage aspects of the program involving private well information. We hope to work together to make the program as useful as possible, with appropriate safeguards for privacy.

In the longer term, we will take appropriate enforcement action within our authorities to address surface water and groundwater contamination. We are currently reviewing nutrient management plans for some of the Large CAFOs in Kewaunee County to identify any facilities that are not following applicable nutrient application rates, and we will continue to conduct inspections of animal feeding operations as part of our Clean Water Act enforcement and compliance work. We will also increase our oversight of WDNR compliance inspections in the County during the spring spreading season to ensure existing regulations are being met.

Finally, I anticipate a visit to Kewaunee County in the near future to meet with WDNR and County officials to discuss the ongoing groundwater contamination issues.

At the conclusion of our October 11th meeting, we agreed to meet again in person in January, 2017. Please feel free to contact Christopher Grubb, Assistant Regional Counsel, at (312) 886-7187, or Gerald "Dean" Winn, Acting Regional Agriculture Advisor, at (312) 886-2777 to schedule such a meeting. In the meantime, feel free to contact me with any developments.

Sincerely,



Christopher Korleski
Director, Water Division

cc: Jimmy Bramblett, USDA/NRCS
Tom Krapf, USDA/NRCS
Cathy Stepp, WDNR
Russ Rasmussen, WDNR
Scott Feldt, Kewaunee County Administrator
Lee Luft, Kewaunee County Supervisor
Lynn Utesch, Kewaunee CARES
Dean Hoegger, Clean Water Action Council
Don Niles, Peninsula Pride Farms
Christa Westerberg, McGillivray Westerberg & Bender LLC
Jamie Saul, Earthrise Law Center, Lewis & Clark Law School
Tarah Heinzen, Food & Water Watch
Abel Russ, Environmental Integrity Project
Scott Laeser, Clean Wisconsin