On Tuesday, new Wisconsin alliance to call for immediate PFAS testing of municipal drinking water systems statewide

Government, public health and environmental leaders join forces to urge local officials to test all municipal water supplies in Wisconsin for toxic ‘forever chemicals’

WHEN: 10:30-11 a.m. | Tuesday, May 4, 2021

WHO: State Rep. Katrina Shankland, 71st Assembly District - Stevens Point
Tony Wilkin Gibart, Midwest Environmental Advocates Executive Director
Beth Neary, M.D., Wisconsin Environmental Health Network Co-President
Doug Oitzinger, Marinette City Council
Sayed Abbas, Madison City Council
Lee Donahue, Town of Campbell, La Crosse County

WHERE: This virtual event will open at 10:25 a.m. via Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83164106470
The event will also be streamed live at https://www.facebook.com/MidwestEnvironmentalAdvocates

WHAT: Virtual news conference hosted by #PFASFree Wisconsin, a new alliance seeking immediate statewide testing of all public water systems in Wisconsin to determine the presence of toxic PFAS chemicals in municipal drinking water.

#PFASFree Wisconsin is a new collaborative effort composed of environmental groups, public health professionals, community leaders and others who are concerned about the lack of testing data and potential health effects of PFAS in municipal water supplies.

Because many public water utilities in Wisconsin have not tested for PFAS, the extent of its existence in municipal drinking water is unknown. Campaign organizers will launch a new website on Tuesday that gives Wisconsinites tools they can use to urge their local water utilities and public officials to test drinking water.

PFAS, an abbreviation for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, is a group of thousands of synthetic, highly toxic chemicals used in a wide variety of manufacturing processes and consumer products such as firefighting foam, nonstick cookware, water-repellant clothing, stain resistant carpets, and more.

PFAS contamination has been discovered in soil and groundwater in communities throughout Wisconsin, including Camp Douglas, Chilton City, Hudson, La Crosse, Madison, Manitowoc, Marinette, Middleton, Milwaukee, Rhinelander, South Milwaukee, Sparta, and Superior.

Exposure to PFAS at even extremely low levels has been linked to serious health problems, including an increased risk of cancer, reproductive and developmental problems, thyroid hormone disruption, high cholesterol, ulcerative colitis, negative impacts to the immune system, and more.

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