

February 6, 2020

Ross McQuade
Superintendent
Presque Isle Utilities District

CC: Martin Puckett, Presque Isle City Manager;
Kevin Freeman, City Council Chair;
Representative Trey Stewart;
Senator Michael Carpenter;
Dr. Nirav Shah, Director of Maine Center for Disease Control;
Gerald Reid, Commissioner Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

On September 6th, 2019 we received a letter signed by the superintendent at the time, Frank Kearney, informing us that the Presque Isle Utilities District was utilizing biosolids from the waste treatment facility as a soil amendment on land up the hill from our homes.

In the days that followed, the Utilities District conducted testing in our wells to monitor the possible contamination of our drinking water by Per- and Poly-fluoroalkyl substances present in the biosolids being spread on the land.

When the test results came back, the levels of these PFAS chemicals were alarming to us. Despite that, we received a note from the superintendent reassuring us that our water samples “show a passing result for the critical substances of concern.”

On January 23, the Governor’s PFAS Task Force released their final report and recommendations where they unanimously recommend that DEP and Maine CDC’s Drinking Water Program consider applying the EPA health advisory level (70 parts per trillion) to the sum of at least PFHxS, PFNA, PFHpA, PFOA, and PFOS when detected in drinking water.

The combined levels of these compounds equaled 82.2 ppt in the White family’s water and 75.8 ppt in Mr. Harvath son Logan’s house. **These levels clearly exceed the level recommended by the Governor’s task force.**

Additionally, our neighbors in New Hampshire and in Vermont have more recently revised their standards and now regulate these chemicals at lower levels. Vermont requires treatment of water if the same combination of chemicals has levels over 20. The sum of levels found in the Harvath/Michaud household was 34.6, in exceedance of

the Vermont standard. Additionally, all of our test results for PFOA exceed the New Hampshire standard of 12 ppt, and Logan's also exceeds the New Hampshire standard of 15 for PFOS.

If we lived in either Vermont or New Hampshire, the state would clearly say our water was not fit for consumption.

In light of this, we find your reassurance that the results were okay to be severely lacking. We can't expose our families to chemicals that are associated with serious adverse health effects, including decreasing the normal responsiveness of the immune system and a woman's chance of becoming pregnant and increasing the risk of thyroid disease, elevated cholesterol levels, and the occurrence of several cancers.

Since our water was contaminated by the Utilities District spreading of biosolids, we implore that the Utilities District find a solution to address the PFAS contamination of our water and provide us with a reliable and safe alternative in the meantime.

We hope to hear back from you soon.

Dan and Kate White,
Eric Harvath and Nicole Michaud