
FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Bulletin #26, Federal Aviation Association, June 18, 2021

Airports have been required by the Federal Aviation Association to use fluorinated firefighting foams for decades. Now, testing of PFAS contaminated water sources is highlighting the problems this is causing to US citizens' water sources – both municipal and private.

“PFAS contamination has become an increasingly prominent environmental issue in Wisconsin over the past several years, with these substances identified in multiple locations around the state, including in the Marinette and Peshtigo areas.

The La Crosse Regional Airport is located next to the town of Campbell on the northern part of French Island — PFAS are commonly found in firefighting foams used at airports.

"Testing, training and emergency response use of that foam has resulted in soil and groundwater contamination," said Darsi Foss, the DNR's Environmental Management Division administrator at a press conference Thursday."¹

The City of La Crosse, Wisconsin owns the La Crosse Regional Airport. They have now filed a lawsuit against the companies that make firefighting foams. The city is facing “immense pressure from the community it serves related to the use of firefighting foam under federal regulations.”²

Airports throughout the US are dealing with AFFF water contaminations issues. Numerous airports in the US have requested exemptions. And, still the FAA has not issued an updated Cert 139 although the 2018 FAA Reauthorization Act requires them to transition to fluorine-free foams by October 5, 2021.³

1 Wisconsin Issues Drinking Water Advisory After Well Testing on French Island Identifies PFAS Contamination, Zac Schultz, March 26, 2021, <https://pbswisconsin.org/news-item/wisconsin-issues-drinking-water-advisory-after-well-testing-on-french-island-identifies-pfas-contamination/>

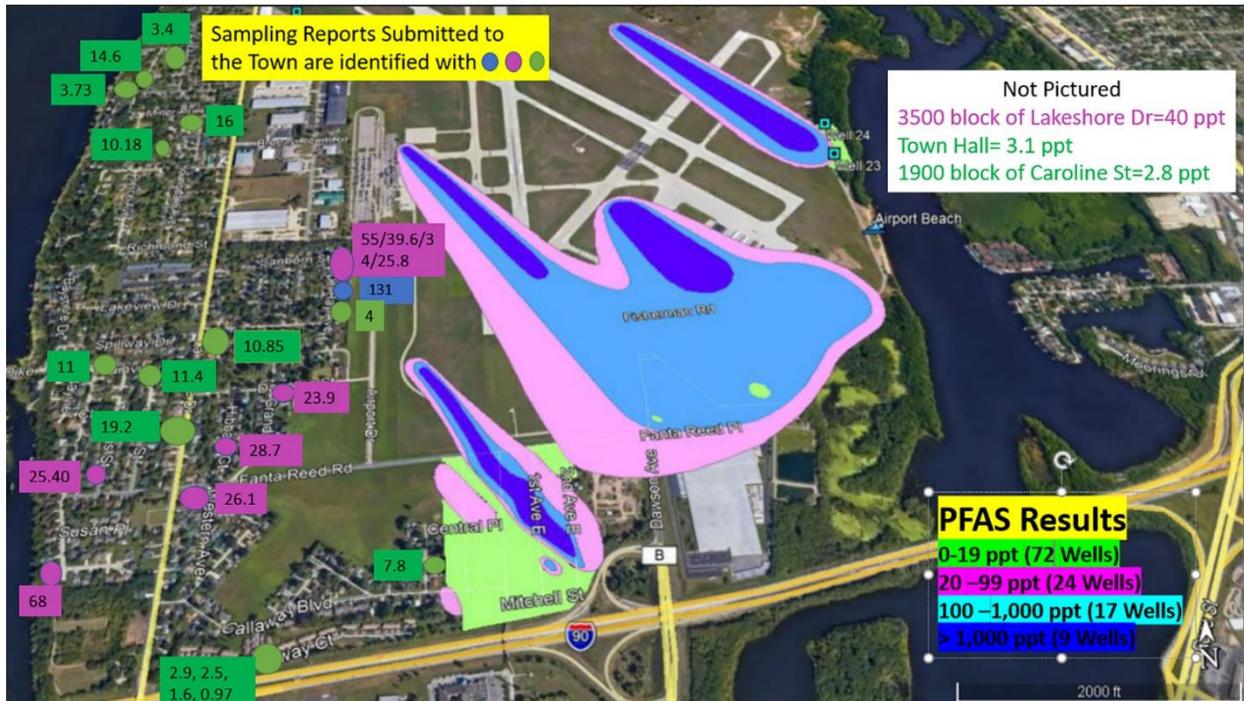
2 Federal Aviation Administration National Part 139 CertAlert, No. 19-02, 10/29/2019, https://www.faa.gov/airports/airport_safety/certalerts/media/part-139-cert-alert-19-02-AFFF.pdf

Foam Exposure Committee

Contact: Rick Nickeson

rick@rnick.com

C. 781-775-2092



A map updated on March 22, 2021 indicates the PFAS levels identified in tests of private wells in the Town of Campbell near the La Crosse Regional Airport in Wisconsin. (Credit: Town of Campbell)