

File Code: 6700
Date: August 28, 2019

Carrie Stolz
State of Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources
107 Sutliff Avenue
Rhineland, WI 54501

Dear Ms. Stolz:

This letter is in response to your request for information on the history of ownership and land uses of the USDA Forest Service research facility at 5985 Hwy K, Rhineland due to the recent detection of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Rhineland's Municipal Well #7 (WDNR BRRTS # 02-44-584094).

The USDA Forest Service has owned and operated these lands as the Hugo Sauer Nursery since the 1930s and as a research facility since 1959. From the late 1940s to 1960, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources leased the Hugo Sauer Nursery to grow tree stocking material for reforestation efforts across northern Wisconsin. Since the 1960s, the Northern Research Station of the USDA Forest Service has used the nursery lands for developing and growing genomes of several conifer species and poplar short rotation woody crops. Our main facility laboratories are used to process and analyze chemical compounds and nutrients within these woody samples, and to conduct population genetic research on a variety of tree and animal species, which primarily involves isolating DNA.

The chemicals used in the nursery currently, and in the past, are consistent with products typically used in nurseries such as ammonium and nitrogen-based fertilizers and various types of herbicides and pesticides. Over the last several years, we have applied small amounts of fertilizers and herbicides as our research program on these lands is not as large-scale or as active. Our employees that apply these chemicals are certified by the State of Wisconsin, and manufacturer's prescribed guidelines and proper application rates are followed. To my knowledge, a chemical spill has never occurred, nor does any documentation of a chemical spill exist. Our facility is recorded as a small quantity hazardous waste generator due to some of our past laboratory processes, which generated small amounts of hazardous waste streams, but we are no longer conducting this research. Any generated chemical waste is stored in a concrete chemical hazardous waste building that is inventoried annually, and waste disposal is contracted with licensed chemical hazardous disposal companies. A current chemical inventory list can be provided if requested.

You also requested information on any remediation efforts that occurred on the property. In 2005, we worked with the WI Department of Natural Resource to abandon a monitoring well. Closure was granted based on the documents we provided, and the site is listed on the DNR Remediation and Redevelopment GIS Registry of Closed Remediation Sites.



For the safety of our employees, we had our well water tested by Northern Lakes Service for PFAS. I've included the test results, which show PFAS were not detected in our water supply.

If you need any more information, please contact me personally anytime, or contact William Danfield, the Facility Operations Specialist, who is also a certified Water System Operator.

Sincerely,



DEAHN DONNERWRIGHT
Project Leader & Director's Representative

Enclosure (1)

cc: Tony Ferguson, Sokjae Cho, Beth Larry, William Danfield

ANALYTICAL RESULTS: Perfluorinated Chemicals by EPA 537 Rev 1.1 Safe Drinking Water Analysis

Customer: USDA/Forestry Sciences Lab NLS Project: 327217

Project Description: PFAS

Project Title: Template: 537PPT Printed: 08/21/2019 07:45

Sample: 1138134 01/02 PFAS Collected: 08/02/19 Analyzed: 08/13/19 - Analytes: 12

ANALYTE NAME	RESULT	UNITS WWB	DIL	LOD	LOQ	MCL	Note
perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)	ND	ppt	1	6.6	20.9		
perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	ND	ppt	1	1.3	4.0		
perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	ND	ppt	1	0.80	2.6		
perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	ND	ppt	1	2.8	8.8		
perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	ND	ppt	1	1.2	3.9		
perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	ND	ppt	1	1.5	4.9		
perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	ND	ppt	1	1.7	5.3		
perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA)	ND	ppt	1	0.90	2.7		
perfluoroundecanoic acid (PFUnA)	ND	ppt	1	1.0	3.0		
perfluorododecanoic acid (PFDoA)	ND	ppt	1	1.9	6.1		
perfluorotridecanoic acid (PFTrDA)	ND	ppt	1	3.2	10.3		
perfluorotetradecanoic acid (PFTA)	ND	ppt	1	2.8	8.9		
C13-PFHxA (SURR)	70.954%		1				S
C13-PFDA (SURR)	90.64%		1				S

NOTES APPLICABLE TO THIS ANALYSIS:

S = This compound is a surrogate used to evaluate the quality control of a method.

The PFOA branch isotope peak is included in the PFOA calculation per EPA directive.

C/O Deahn Donerwright
Northern Research Station
5985 County Highway K
Rhineland, WI 54501

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WI 543



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-CStolz

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