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Sent: Friday, June 28, 2019 2:32 AM
To: Suuberg, Martin (DEP) <martin.suuberg@mass.gov>; Director-DWP, Program (DEP) <program.director-dwp@mass.gov>
Cc: Kate Hogan <@gmail.com>
Subject: Comment on Establishing a PFAS MCL

The Honorable Martin Suuberg, Commissioner

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

One Winter Street, 2nd Floor, Boston, MA 02108

June 30, 2019

Mr. Suuberg,

The public drinking water system here in Hudson, MA has been contaminated with per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) and has been for many years. Testing for PFAS contamination in Hudson only began in 2016 per MA DEP requirement. The federal EPA has failed in it's responsibility to protect the public water systems of the nation contaminated by these PFAS chemicals. The federal EPA has no regulation for these chemicals in drinking water and has only established a health warning level of 70 ppt. Our local DPW, which administrates our public water system, was aware that there was PFAS contamination but since contamination level was lower than the federal EPA advisory level they believed that the water was "safe". Only when the quarterly sampling earlier this year showed a level of contamination higher than 70 ppt did the Hudson DPW in conjunction with MA DEP take one of the wells, nearby a company which manufactures PFAS coated equipment, supplying water having the highest level of PFAS offline and began a remediation process. That's when the public became aware of this issue with our drinking water. Meetings were held here in Hudson by our Board of Selectmen and our State Representative in conjunction with MA DEP experts to inform the public of this situation.

In the process of these meetings and searching on the internet I found out more about public water systems and PFAS contamination than I ever wanted to know, about how PFAS exposure impacts early childhood development and adult male reproductive health. The Agency For Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATDSR) study shows that PFAS exposure can increase cancer risk, lower a woman's chance of getting pregnant, interfere with the body's hormones and affect growth, learning and behavior of infants and older children. Experts indicate that there has been much more research conducted about the health impacts of PFAS than people have been led to believe to support efforts to set more protective drinking water standards for PFAS exposure. Hundreds of studies suggest real health impacts. Many environmental activists and medical experts say that federal EPA level is not low enough, and several states, including New Hampshire and Vermont, are setting more protective standards on the order of 20 ppt or less.

The town of Hudson will spend millions on remediation of the PFAS contamination of our public water system. It is hoped that the companies responsible for this contamination will reimburse the town for this cost but ultimately the public water consumer and the town may bear this expense. Additional impact to local private wells and the health consequences of this PFAS contamination will go on for years.

Lack of an enforceable standard for PFAS contamination has contributed to this situation. Local communities and small businesses do not have the scientific resources to evaluate the PFAS contamination danger to public health. The federal EPA has totally failed the public, either through incompetence or collusion with the chemical industry. We look to the MA DEP to establish a "safe" PFAS MCL. By statute MA DEP must follow a deliberative process of setting this standard for Massachusetts. Please proceed with this as quickly as possible. The citizens of Massachusetts are depending on you.

Regards, Jim Carvalho – Hudson, MA