



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

SEP 09 2016

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:  
**WN-16J**

Don Niles, DVM  
Peninsula Pride Farms  
E3576 Cardinal Road  
Casco, WI 54205

Dear Dr. Niles:

The "Water Well" Program announced by Peninsula Pride Farms is a good example of how a collaborative process can lead to innovative responses to difficult issues of public health and environmental protection. EPA is pleased that Peninsula Pride has stepped forward to address an aspect of an urgent problem.

In October 2014, environmental groups jointly filed a petition asking EPA to exercise its emergency authority under the Safe Drinking Water Act in Kewaunee County. In the county and nearby areas, many residents rely on private wells for drinking water. The area also features karst geology, which, because of its porous and fractured nature, can allow substances applied to the land surface or discharged to the subsurface to enter underground aquifers. In response to the petition, and following discussions with EPA, WDNR convened four workgroups composed of stakeholders in September 2015 to address (1) short-term solutions, (2) best management practices/sensitive areas, (3) compliance, and (4) communications. WDNR released a report containing the final workgroup recommendations in June 2016.

The June 2016 Report made clear that provision of alternate water was a priority, but did not clearly identify a mechanism to make that happen. EPA met with your group in June to explore possible solutions. The result of this effort is the "Water Well" program announced earlier this week, which will provide alternate water supplies and partial funding for treatment of wells contaminated by *E. coli*, regardless of the source of contamination. It builds on the recommendations of the stakeholder process. Although it does not resolve all of the well contamination issues in Kewaunee County, EPA believes it represents noteworthy progress. It helpfully provides a bridge to the longer term implementation of best management practices in the area. EPA appreciates your assistance to residents, as well as your leadership.

It is our hope that this agreement points the way to increasing collaboration among the stakeholders as we all continue to work together toward effective solutions. EPA looks forward to working with Peninsula Pride Farms and other local groups, in addition to state and local agencies, on other efforts to implement recommendations from the June 2016 Report. EPA will

continue to monitor developments and take any necessary actions within our authorities in Kewaunee County in order to ensure protection of public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tinka G. Hyde". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tinka G. Hyde, Director  
Water Division, Region 5

cc: Cathy Stepp, WDNR  
Russ Rasmussen, WDNR  
Davina Bonness, Kewaunee County  
Dale Konkol, Door County