



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

MAR 28 2016

Cathy Stepp, Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster Street
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Dear Secretary Stepp:

Thank you for hosting the March 16, 2016 meeting between your Water Management Team and EPA Region 5 Water Division managers and staff regarding groundwater contamination in Kewaunee County.

As you know, EPA has received a petition to use our emergency authority to protect human health and the environment in Kewaunee County. The petition alleges that "nearly a third (30.85%) of tested wells in the county contained bacteria, nitrate, or both at levels that exceed state and federal health standards."

We understand that WDNR has been working to address the groundwater contamination issues that are the subject of the petition. Since July 2015, four workgroups comprised of stakeholders, including EPA, have been working on proposed solutions to these groundwater contamination problem. At our meeting last week, WDNR stated that it will compile and seek comment on these proposals by April 15, 2016, and then formulate an action plan as soon as possible to address the issues comprehensively. In addition, you informed us that you plan to devote additional enforcement resources to Kewaunee County.

While you are working on these proposed solutions, it is important that residents of Kewaunee County have access to clean drinking water. Currently there is only one water kiosk available in the northern part of the county for residents to use. I know that you share my concerns about the availability of clean drinking water for residents with private well contamination. We would like to meet with you to discuss your plans in this regard as soon as possible.

Finally, we have been asked by the petitioners to meet with residents to discuss ongoing efforts to address the groundwater contamination and their overall concerns. We would be pleased to participate in a meeting with WDNR and Kewaunee County residents on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert A. Kaplan".

Robert A. Kaplan
Acting Regional Administrator