



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

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:  
**WG-15J**

May 5, 2023

Carly Griffith, Water Program Director  
Leigh Currie, Director of Strategic Litigation  
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy  
1919 University Avenue West, Suite 515  
Saint Paul, MN 55104

Dear Ms. Griffith and Ms. Currie:


Thank you for your email dated April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, transmitting the petition for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to exercise its emergency powers established in Section 1431 of the Safe Drinking Water Act to investigate and address nitrate contamination of underground sources of drinking water in the karst region of Minnesota. We share your belief that protection of underground sources of drinking water is of paramount importance in Minnesota, and around the country.

EPA is reviewing the petition and evaluating next steps. We will respond to you when we have completed our initial evaluation.

If you have further questions or would like to discuss scheduling a follow-up meeting, please contact Candice Bauer, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch Manager, at (312) 353-2106 or [Bauer.Candice@epa.gov](mailto:Bauer.Candice@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

5/5/2023

X 

Tera L. Fong  
Division Director, Water Division  
Signed by: Environmental Protection Agency

cc: Michael Harris (Director, Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, EPA)