

Amended

RESOLUTION # 16 - 2024

**Resolution to direct the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to test well water for PFAS in areas near historically permitted sludge/waste spreading in Oneida County**

Resolution approved for presentation to the Oneida County Board by the Supervisors of the Board of Health Committee

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

Whereas, the purpose of the request is to determine how many DNR certified biosolid spreading sites are in Oneida County and what their PFAS levels might be. Since the DNR certifies the sites, they also should be getting and recording info on how much sludge/biosolids in weight have been spread on each field every year.

Whereas, it is the desire of the County Board that the Department of Natural resources provide information pertaining to biosolids per site and in a timely manner to the Department of Health.

**WHEREAS**, according to the Wisconsin DNR PFAS Action Plan 2020, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of over 5,000 human made chemicals that were invented in the 1930's. These chemicals have been used in products ranging anywhere from nonstick cookware, waterproof clothing, and stain-resistant textiles to Aqueous Film Forming (firefighting) Foam (AFFF) and food packaging. However, PFAS are also exceptionally resistant to degradation and, when discharged into the environment, linger for prolonged periods and may bioaccumulate in humans, fish and wildlife. In recent years it has been discovered that PFAS substances bioaccumulate in the human body and studies have found that 98% of Americans have measurable levels of PFAS in their blood and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) certain PFAS substances pose a number of risks to human health, including developmental problems in fetuses and infants, certain types of cancer, reduced antibody response, decreased immune response to vaccinations, and kidney disease, and

**WHEREAS**, sample results of wells in the Town of Stella tested by the DNR's Bureau of Drinking Water and Ground Water in the summer of 2022 indicated high levels of PFAS compounds in at least 49 private wells out of 114 that have been tested as of August 15, 2023

**WHEREAS**, sampling results found that several water bodies contained levels of PFAS compounds higher than Wisconsin's water quality standards, including Snowden Lake, Starks Creek, several lakes in the Moen Chain (Second Lake, Third Lake, Fourth Lake, and Fifth Lake), Twin Lakes Creek, the North Branch of the Pelican River, and the Pelican River, and

**WHEREAS**, the DNR and Department of Health Services (DHS) recommends limiting eating fish from PFAS-contaminated bodies of water, showering after swimming, and being careful not to swallow water during activities such as tubing and water skiing, and

**WHEREAS**, Oneida County is an extremely water rich part of Wisconsin, with over 1,100 lakes (428 named lakes and 701 unnamed lakes) which cover over 100 square miles. If additional bodies of water are confirmed to have PFAS, this could lead to potential increased exposure to PFAS and could potentially impact tourism and our economy, and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Rhinelander has shut down well 7 and well 8 due to high PFAS concentrations, and the Oneida County Health Department recommends to not drink water from the artesian spring along River Road due to high levels of PFAS, and

**WHEREAS**, there has been much manufacturing, agriculture, and sewage waste dumping in Oneida County fields for decades; all possible sources of PFAS, and

**WHEREAS**, there remain several sites in Oneida County where untested biosolids are being applied, and

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<sup>Six</sup>  
~~two~~  
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that all areas within a ~~two~~ mile radius surrounding where the DNR permitted biosolids to be applied will be offered well water testing to be paid for by the DNR or the state of Wisconsin

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all biosolids from Waste Water Treatment Facilities (WWTF's) and those facilities suspected of potentially having elevated PFAS concentrations in their biosolids require testing according to the WDNR prior to land application in Oneida County. Test results must be submitted to the WDNR and the property owner where the biosolids will be applied at least three days prior to the biosolids application. Test results must also be accessible to Oneida County Health Department, Land and Water Conservation, Planning and Development, and applicable towns.

Vote Required: Majority =  2/3 Majority = \_\_\_\_\_ 3/4 Majority = \_\_\_\_\_

The County Board has the legal authority to adopt: Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_ as reviewed by the Corporation Counsel, \_\_\_\_\_, Date:

10-15-2023

Approved for presentation to the County Board by the Board of Health 12<sup>m</sup> day of December, 2023.

Consent Agenda Item:  YES  NO

Offered and passage moved by:

Tom Kelly  
Supervisor  
Julian Miller  
Supervisor  
Michael K. Kauder  
Supervisor  
William Condado  
Supervisor  
[Signature]  
Supervisor

17 Ayes

0 Nays

4 Absent

0 Abstain

Adopted by the County Board of Supervisors this 10 day of January, 2024.

[Signature]  
Tracy Hartman, County Clerk

[Signature]  
Scott Holewinski, County Board Chair

Supervisors	AYE	NAV	ABS	ABSTAIN
Ryden	X			
Fisher	X		X	
Newman	X			
Fried		X		
Almekinder	X			
Rio	X			
Winkler	X			
Cushing	X			
Showalter		X		
Schreier	X			
Briggs		X		
Schultz	X			
Oettinger	X		X	
Timmons	X			
Jensen	X			
Kelly	X		X	
Sorgel	X			
Harris		X		
Condado	X		X	
Roach	X			
Holewinski		X		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	
TAGS				

Motion by Winkler to amend line 55 from 2 miles to 6 miles.  
 Seconded by Sorgel.

**Resolution: # 16-2024**

Amendment #2

Passed

Supervisors	AYE	NAY	ABS	ABSTAIN
Schultz	X			
Jensen	X			
Fried	X			
Condado	—		X	
Kelly	—		X	
Winkler	X			
Roach	X			
Ryden	X			
Schreier	X			
Almekinder	X			
Briggs	X			
Rio	X			
Timmmons	X			
Cushing	X			
Showalter	X			
Newman	X			
Sorgel	X			
Oettinger	—		X	
Harris	X			
Fisher	—		X	
Holewinski	X			
<b>TOTALS</b>				
TAGS				

Motion by Fried to insert after line 10 and prior to line 12  
 Whereas, the purpose of the request is to determine how  
 many DNR certified biosolid spreading sites are in Oneida  
 County and what their PFAS levels might be. Since the DNR  
 certifies the sites, they also should be getting and recording  
 info on how much sludge/biosolids in weight have been spread  
 on each field every year.  
 Seconded by Roach.

**Resolution # 16-2024**

Amendment #3

Passed

Supervisors	AYE	NAY	ABS	ABSTAIN
Timmons	X			
Cushing	X			
Fried	X			
Harris	X			
Newman	X			
Condado	—		X	
Briggs	X			
Showalter	X			
Jensen	X			
Winkler	X			
Ryden	X			
Fisher	—		X	
Roach	X			
Sorgel	X			
Rio	X			
Alemekinder	X			
Schreier	X			
Schultz	X			
Oettinger	—		X	
Kelly	—		X	
Holewinski	X			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>4</b>	
TAGS				

Motion by Schreier to amend the resolution to add after the previous amendment  
 Whereas, it is the desire of the County Board that the DNR provide informaton regarding Biosolids per site and in a timely manner to the Department of Health.  
 Seconded by Roach.

**Resolution: 16-2024 - Amended**

Supervisors	AYE	NAY	ABS	ABSTAIN
Showalter	X			
Jensen	X			
Timmons	X			
Roach	X			
Briggs	X			
Cushing	X			
Sorgel	X			
Winkler	X			
Schultz	X			
Fisher	—			
Kelly	—			
Oettinger	—			
Newman	X			
Schreier	X			
Fried	X			
Harris	X			
Almekinder	X			
Condado	—			
Ryden	X			
Rio	X			
Holewinski	X			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>4</b>	
TAGS				

**Resolution # 16 – 2024:** Offered by the Supervisors of the Board of Health Committee to direct the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to test well water for PFAS in areas near historically permitted sludge/waste spreading in Oneida County.