

**TOWN OF STELLA
ONEIDA COUNTY
2496 CTH C
P.O. Box 1141
Rhineland, WI 54501**

Robert Goodin - Supervisor
(715) 369-9280

David Brunette - Chairman
(715) 369-5430

Richard Hirman - Supervisor
(715) 493-0301

Kathleen Baker - Treasurer
(715) 369-0437

Stacy Schickert - Clerk
(715) 369-2292

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

December 31, 2022

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name: David Brunette
Position: Town Chairman
Phone: 715-369-5430
Email: clerk@townofstella.com

TOWN OF STELLA ISSUES PUBLIC STATEMENT ON PFAS CONTAMINATION

STELLA, WI – Private wells in the Town of Stella have tested positive for Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (“PFAS”) at levels so high that the water can no longer be safely consumed by our residents. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”) discovered the PFAs in the wells during randomized testing conducted statewide.

Representatives from the State of Wisconsin attended a Town of Stella meeting on December 13, 2022, including Sarah Yang, Ph.D., from the Department of Health Services and James Yach, the Secretary’s Director for the Northern Region for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”). However, the meeting did not provide the Town with any concrete guidance, nor did the DNR instruct the Town on how to handle the PFAS contamination moving forward. Moreover, at this time, the Town has still not received further information regarding the DNR’s findings, including the locations of the contaminated wells or the source of the contamination.

As a result, the Town of Stella has reached out to senior representatives of the DNR and requested the following relief on behalf of the Town of Stella:

- 1) Immediate testing to determine the location of the contaminated wells.
- 2) Assessment of each source of contamination.
- 3) Provision of temporary water to all affected residents in the community, pursuant to NR 738, including the resources to administer the program.
- 4) Work with the Town to create a long-term solution to providing clean water to our residences and to remediate the contamination in our area.

We further requested a meeting with DNR officials within ten business days of receipt of the correspondence to further discuss the PFAS contamination and develop a coordinated strategy to address the issue.

In addition, the Town of Stella has reached out to our elected public officials and requested additional assistance in remedying this issue, as well as advocating for our municipality at the local and

**TOWN OF STELLA
ONEIDA COUNTY
2496 CTH C
P.O. Box 1141
Rhineland, WI 54501**

state level. We informed our public officials that the Town of Stella simply cannot address this situation without significant State assistance. As a result, we further informed our public officials that it is imperative that the State provide us with the necessary funding and resources to address the issue. We simply do not have the staff or resources to combat the PFAS contamination and appropriately serve our constituents on our own.

We understand and acknowledge the severity of this situation. We are hopeful that the State will prove instrumental in providing us with the necessary guidance, resources, and funding to identify the source of the contamination, while simultaneously providing our residents with safe drinking water on both a temporary and permanent basis.

###