

State of Minnesota
Commerce Finance and Policy Meeting
HF1000 Hearing
Monday March 6, 2023
Room 10, State Office Building

RE: PFC Chemical Pollution of the Blackford Well by the State of Minnesota MPCA

First of all, why do we not have innate right as human beings to keep our bodies free from being permanently polluted by forever chemicals such as the 3M invented PFC forever chemicals that are now inside the bodies of everyone in this room plus everyone in the State of Minnesota?

If the Minnesota legislature does not draw a line starting right here, right now, with 3M PFC chemical pollution, then where are we ever going to draw it? When we have 5 permanent man-made chemicals in our bodies or 10 or even 100?

Why is the burden of proof on the people who have been polluted instead of on the polluter? If 3M says their PFC chemicals are safe in our bodies, then why have they not produced any long-term clinical studies that they completed before unleashing these PFC chemicals on us that show that PFC's are safe?

We as human beings have lived on earth for many thousands of years and unfortunately, now we are being forced against our will to be part of a big science experiment thanks to 3M and their patented and mass-produced PFC chemicals. Every minute of every day our bodies are fighting on a cellular level against the permanent PFC chemicals that should not be there in our bodies and some people are losing this fight and dying. We do not know the long-term impact of PFC chemicals in our bodies and certainly have no clue as to what additional permanent chemicals from other manufacturers will do in combination with the 3M PFC chemicals.

The burden of proof continues to fall on those people who have been polluted to prove they have been harmed when they never should've consumed PFC's in the first place.

The Blackford family did not give anyone approval or consent to put PFC's in our bodies! Why is this simple fact not enough for the State of Minnesota or the Federal Government to take action on this issue?

The Blackford family is one of those unwilling victims of this 3M science experiment. Please read this information I am providing below and tell me what the Blackford family did wrong!

We built our home on family land in Lake Elmo that was bought in the 1950's by my wife's family long before the Washington County Landfill was ever considered to be placed just west of us in the Olinger gravel pit next to Lake Jane in Lake Elmo in the late 1960's. Knowing that the landfill was there when we built our home on family land in 1979 and just to be completely safe, we had our well water regularly tested by the State of Minnesota from the day we moved into our home. The State of Minnesota told us our water was safe to drink for decades until the State of Minnesota finally found 3M PFC chemicals in our water in September 2006.

It is a proven fact that PFC chemicals leaking from the Washington County Landfill in Lake Elmo polluted the well of the Blackford family. The MPCA even admitted that fact plus they mounded the groundwater at the Landfill and sent more PFC pollution to the Blackford family well (please see the Star Tribune article "Hunting the invisible" from November 7, 2013). Our family drank polluted water for over two decades longer than anyone else around the Landfill before we found out our well water was polluted because of water testing failures by the MPCA and an incorrect assumption by the MPCA that the pollution from the Landfill would never move to the east to the Blackford home. We have elevated levels of PFC's in our bodies and blood to prove we had very significant exposure to 3M PFC pollution from our well water.

The MPCA made sure that well over 200 homes around the landfill received Lake Elmo City water at no cost to the homeowners - except for the Blackford family. To this day, even after working extensively with the MPCA on this issue, they refuse to bring city water to the Blackford family!

The Blackford home is the only home with a PFC polluted well in a direct ring around the Washington County Landfill that is inside of the Lake Elmo City waterlines that were built around the Landfill by the MPCA, Washington County and the City of Lake Elmo that does not have City water! How can that even be possible?

Basically, everything is backwards in this disgusting PFC chemical pollution situation caused by extremely bad decisions by the Washington County Board to put the Washington County Landfill in a gravel pit in Lake Elmo with no bottom liner for the Landfill with standing ground water in the Landfill site in a "chain of lakes area". Then Washington County compounded a bad situation by allowing toxic concentrated 3M industrial wastes to be dumped in what was supposed to be a residential trash only landfill known officially as "Solid Waste Landfill #1" (SW-1) which was the very first Solid Waste Landfill approved by the MPCA. The MPCA has aerial pictures that show the Landfill trash being pushed into the standing ground water and did nothing to stop this practice. The MPCA took over the Washington County Landfill because it immediately started leaking pollution into the surrounding ground water and decided that even though the trash was sitting in ground water, that they would build a cap over the Landfill to stop the pollution from spreading which of course did not work because the trash was still sitting in the ground water!

Next the MPCA decided to pump underground water from the Landfill site and spray it into the air to aerate the water and air strip the volatile organic chemicals (VOC's) from the ground water. Instead, they mounded the local ground water and accelerated the sending of PFC chemicals further out from the Washington County Landfill into the local ground water aquifer and of course directly to the Blackford family home well directly east of the Landfill site.

Finally, the MPCA made the worst PFC pollution error possible when remediating the Washington County Landfill site in 2009 to 2010. They allowed the contractor doing the work installing a triple lined landfill to take the pump-out water (all the ground water in the Landfill site that the trash was sitting in) in tanker trucks to the sanitary sewer connection at the Oakdale pollution site. This pump-out water was not treated in any way before it was moved from the Washington County Landfill site to the Oakdale sanitary sewer site. This Oakdale site was a second local PFC pollution site where the MPCA was already do some ground water pump out pollution clean-up work and placing the PFC contaminated Oakdale site water into the sanitary sewer pipe that goes all the way to the Pig's Eye Sewage Treatment Plant in South St. Paul, MN. Unfortunately, the Pig's Eye Sewage Treatment plant has no ability to remove PFC chemicals from the sewage waste water.

Therefore, the MPCA sent the most concentrated PFC Chemical wastes from the Washington County Landfill directly into the Mississippi River. The MPCA totally blew their big chance to remove a huge amount of PFC chemicals from our environment and flushed them down into this very important Mississippi River watershed. Most importantly, the MPCA knew better than to do this since they authored a study dated February 2006 which was a State of Minnesota "Report to Senate Environment Committee" titled "Investigation of Perfluorochemical (PFC) Contamination in Minnesota" that listed all the hazards of PFC pollution and why we should be stopping all PFC pollution and one of the authors was the current head of the MPCA, Katrina Kessler. This is a lengthy searchable document on the internet that gives the MPCA no room for excuses for flushing concentrated PFC chemicals into the Mississippi River years later after this report was published in 2006 when the Washington County Landfill was remediated in 2009 to 2010.

I have written documentation that the MPCA has made every possible mistake they could've made at the Washington County Landfill site over many decades and yet they still refuse to help the Blackford family get City water after directly polluting the Blackford family well. I will be glad to share this written documented proof of the MPCA's complete and total failure with all you.

The Blackford well is the closest well on the direct east side of the Landfill that is polluted with PFC chemicals from the Landfill, yet we have not been brought City water.

We can see a Lake Elmo City water hydrant from our kitchen window yet the MPCA will not pay for bringing City water to our home.

3M, our big local PFC polluter, has never been called to an honest, complete and full accounting for what it has done to the ground water in Washington County and we continue to let them off the hook and not provide us all the information they have regarding their PFC pollution activities.

Again, the burden of proof continues to fall on those people who have been polluted to prove they have been harmed when they never should've consumed PFC's in the first place.

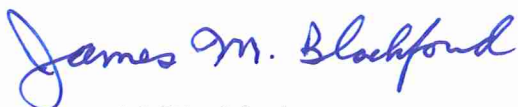
Washington County, the City of Lake Elmo and the State of Minnesota continue to pick winners and losers by not bringing City water to all those Washington County residents with polluted wells.

The State of Minnesota, Washington County or the City of Lake Elmo have never compensated the Blackford family one dime for all the bad things it has done to us over the years with respect to the PFC pollution that Government put in our well. Bringing us clean city water is only the first thing that should be done after massive pollution failures by all levels of Government took away our sense of wellbeing when we learned in 2006 that we had been ingesting PFC's in our well water for decades while being told by the State of Minnesota that our water was safe.

The situation is completely backwards, wrong and unfair to the Blackford family who has been directly impacted by the 3M PFC pollution in our wells through no fault of our own while everyone else around the Landfill goes about their lives with City water.

Please find some way to insert language in HF1000 or another bill to require the MPCA to bring City water to the Blackford family in Lake Elmo and end our almost twenty year PFC well pollution nightmare!

Sincerely,



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