



## February 11, 2022 – PRESS RELEASE

### RE: PFAS Information – Media Questions about Email Response

I have been heavily questioned on an email I sent back in 2021 related to PFAS results and the wording of the email. Accused of holding information and all kinds of other ridiculous accusations.

The accusation that I have been hiding or not communicating information is completely false. Just so everyone knows these test results; 2015 and 2019 test results went to the regular scheduled Wausau Water Works Commission public meeting on September 22, 2020; these were absolutely made public and discussed at a public meeting. Please see pages 9-15 of the packet using the link below.

[https://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Portals/0/Departments/Council/Archives/Boards%20Committees%20Commissions/Wausau%20Water%20Works%20Commission/2020/WWWC\\_20200922\\_Packet.pdf](https://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Portals/0/Departments/Council/Archives/Boards%20Committees%20Commissions/Wausau%20Water%20Works%20Commission/2020/WWWC_20200922_Packet.pdf)

I have spent my entire career providing safe water and wastewater to communities in the upper Midwest, 17 years of this was an officer in the US Public Health Service as a design engineer and Disaster Response Engineer. I have always been an advocate for regulations along with clear guidance and clear messaging from regulatory authorities. In this instance, with PFAS, there is neither regulations, clear guidance or clear messaging from regulatory authorities and this has created some fear and unknowns within the community. I live and work in Wausau and my entire family continues to drink and use Wausau tap water, absolutely!!! Now that the school turned off all of their drinking fountains, I send my kids to school with a water bottle filled with Wausau tap water.

Wausau Water Works has been and will continue to be very proactive and on the forefront of providing safe drinking water to the residents. We will continue to follow regulations as they evolve, maintain compliance and in this case are well in front of PFAS regulations. In 2016 I brought forward a plan to determine if the existing water treatment facility is adequate for the future. It was determined that relocating the treatment facility would better serve the residents now and into the future. This came with a lot of resistance from media and some residents. The Utility Commission and staff recognized the existing facility would not be able to meet the needs of the future and they moved this plan forward. Many City Council members at the time were also in support of this effort and recognized this to be the best path forward.

One of the primary reasons for this proactive move was in consideration of being able to address “emerging contaminants”. Here we are 5-years later we have one of these contaminants before us today with absolutely no regulation or guidance from regulatory agencies but the City is moving forward with a plan of action on our own. Regardless of PFAS becoming regulated or not the City will continue moving forward to determine the best option for PFAS removal with the new treatment facility. Our immediate priority is to determine the best method of PFAS removal and then implement this solution as we bring the new treatment facility online. This would not be possible if proper planning and vision was not done 5-years ago. As a 20+ year professional in the water industry I will continue to keep the public aware of the status of Wausau Water. I am concerned at this time with the ambiguous messaging as it is creating fear and eroding confidence in the Water Utility. Making water safer is a GREAT thing, using these types of issues to create fear and erode confidence is a poor message. The drinking water meets and exceeds all drinking water standards and regulations. As legislation evolves I will continue to keep residents informed.