



## **CARPC Resolution No. 2019-11**

### **Supporting the Development of PFAS Standards**

WHEREAS, in March 1975, Dane County was designated by the Governor of Wisconsin as an area having substantial and complex water quality control problems, and certified such designation to the federal Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission is a duly created regional planning commission under Wis. Stats. § 66.0309, and has an agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to provide water quality management planning assistance; and

WHEREAS, perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are synthetic chemicals that do not occur naturally in the environment. These chemicals, of which there are thousands, have been used in industry and consumer products such as non-stick cookware, water-resistant clothing, food packaging, stain-resistant upholstery and carpeting, and firefighting foams, since the 1950's; and

WHEREAS, PFAS are degradation resistant, therefore remaining persistent in the environment and bio accumulating in the food chain. These chemicals exist in surface and groundwater, accumulating in fish, wildlife, and humans, and have been shown to be harmful to human health; and

WHEREAS, PFAS were found in several Madison Water Utility Wells, with PFOA and PFOS measured at 12 ppt at Well 15; and

WHEREAS, the West Branch of Starkweather Creek, in close proximity to Well 15, had high concentrations of PFOA (43 ppt) and PFOS (360 ppt), and fish tissue concentrations are forthcoming; and

WHEREAS, former testing sites known as "burn pits" at the Dane County Regional Airport, in the Starkweather Creek Watershed, have been determined to be a source of PFAS because of firefighting foam use. Firefighting foams containing PFAS continue to be used, such as at a utility substation fire in July 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources has requested multiple local municipal wastewater treatment facilities to voluntarily sample and analyze PFAS in their influent and effluent

WHEREAS, there are currently no federal or Wisconsin water quality standard for PFAS, though developments at the state level are underway. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has recommended a groundwater standard of 20 parts per trillion (ppt) for the combination of

perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), two of the most common PFAS chemicals, and is developing standards for 34 other PFAS chemicals; and

WHEREAS in order to protect public health and water quality, it is important for the State of Wisconsin to develop ground, surface, and drinking water quality standards and fish consumption advisory standards for PFAS and incorporate those standards into water regulatory programs in the state; and

WHEREAS, Governor Tony Evers has issued Executive Order #40 directing the Department of Natural Resources to create a PFAS Coordinating Council what will develop a multi-agency PFAS action plan; and

WHEREAS, The State Legislature has introduced Senate Bill 302 and Assembly Bill 321, which would require the Department of Natural Resources to establish and enforce various standards PFAS chemicals; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission supports the development of science-based PFAS standards (surface, ground, and drinking water) by the Department of Health Services and the Department of Natural Resources to protect the health of humans, fish and wildlife and the incorporation of those standards into DNR regulatory programs as soon as feasible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission supports the development of a PFAS Coordinating Council and action plan at the state level.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission offers its assistance with these efforts, if desired.

November 14, 2019  
Date Adopted



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Larry Palm, Executive Chairperson



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Kris Hampton, Secretary