



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY**  
**INSTALLATIONS, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**  
**110 ARMY PENTAGON**  
**WASHINGTON DC 20310-0110**

September 1, 2017

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin:

Thank you for your August 2017 letter, concerning the Army's on-going cleanup activities at the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant (AAP). The Army was pleased to host a public meeting on July 26, 2017 in Sauk City.

To address your first point regarding transparency and information concerning the Army's decision making, documents that provide the basis for Army decisions are available for review in the Army's information repository or administrative record kept at the Sauk City Public Library and the Ruth Culver Community Library in Prairie du Sac.

More specifically, the construction and operation of a municipal drinking water system is not allowed under the Army's cleanup program as defined in the Department of Defense's Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) or under other authority. The Army returned to the cleanup process described in Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liabilities Act (CERCLA) and the DERP statute, which is consistent with applicable Wisconsin regulations. While this process is underway, the Army is continuing to ensure human health is protected. The Army's selection of the construction and operation of a municipal drinking water system as part of the preferred alternative in a feasibility study, resulted from not correctly following the remedy selection process outlined in CERCLA and DERP. Additionally, in early 2017, the Army discovered its representatives acted prematurely and beyond their area of authority when beginning the implementation of the proposed municipal drinking water system.

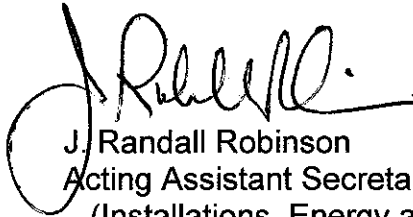
To your second request regarding the Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) which will be used to update and complete the Remedial Investigation (RI), in coordination with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), the Army began the HHRA in July 2017. The Army expedited the contracting effort for the HHRA/RI and completed this award ahead of schedule. The HHRA/RI is scheduled for completion by mid-2018. The HHRA results will evaluate whether contaminant concentrations in plumes emanating from the former Badger AAP exceed acceptable risk levels for lifetime exposure. Meanwhile, the Army is continuing to monitor, and as necessary will replace, residential drinking water wells if they are found to exceed drinking water standards.

Regarding new or emerging contaminants, additional hazardous substances associated with past Army activities that have promulgated standards will be included in future sampling as required under CERCLA. For example, the Army submitted work plans in June 2017 and received concurrence from WDNR to include sampling for Dinitrotoluene breakdown products as part of our next sampling event later this year.

Finally, in response to your and the public's request for additional engagement and dialogue, the Army distributed a survey at the public meeting requesting input on community involvement. We are evaluating the survey results to revise our community involvement plan and re-establish a cleanup website that will provide timely and continuous updates to the community. Both will be completed in Fall 2017. The Army will hold additional public meetings when there are developments in the CERCLA process and will continue to place environmental documents into the information repository and administrative record available to the public at the locations mentioned above.

I can assure you ongoing cleanup efforts at the former Badger AAP are a priority; the Army remains committed to the protection of human health and the environment, and to addressing risks that may impact the availability of safe drinking water for the community around the former Badger AAP. Thank you for your patience, understanding, and continued support of our Army.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Randall Robinson', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

J. Randall Robinson  
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army  
(Installations, Energy and Environment)