



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

January 17, 2017

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin:

I am in receipt of a letter recently sent to you by officials from the town of Merrimac, Wisconsin regarding the Army's proposed drinking water system. This system has been represented as part of the comprehensive groundwater cleanup remedy for the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant.

The health and safety of our Soldiers, their Families, and the surrounding community are always a top priority for the Army. As I previously shared, we have made considerable progress toward addressing environmental contamination at Badger under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP). It is critical that the Army remain within its legal and funding authorities, provided under DERP, as it proceeds with the cleanup at Badger.

Approval of the decision document that would typically start the implementation of the drinking water system has proven more complex than originally anticipated. A team of environmental program and legal professionals at Army headquarters and the Department of Defense are in the process of performing a comprehensive review of the actions that led to the proposed drinking water system. Their focus is to ensure that the remedy to address groundwater contamination follows the restoration process and remains within the authorities given to DoD for environmental restoration. They are also charged with developing a path forward to a remedy that protects the health of citizens and ensures the availability of safe drinking water around Badger.

My office will remain in close contact with you, State regulators, and local representatives as this review reaches its conclusion in early 2017. Thank you for your continued support to our Soldiers and their Families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "Katherine Hammack", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "K" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Katherine Hammack