



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

April 7, 2017

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin:

I am providing you with an update to my March 8, 2017 letter concerning the drinking water for the community of Merrimac. The Army shares your concerns for the health and safety of communities that are affected by Army activities.

As you know, the Army recently reviewed the proposed construction and operation of a drinking water system near the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant (AAP). The review discovered that Army representatives acted prematurely and beyond their area of authority. As a result, providing a drinking water system would be inconsistent with our authority under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program.

On March 27, 2017, the Army initiated communications with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources who understand our requirements, and we have developed a path forward that will be shared with the people of Merrimac and other stakeholders in the upcoming months.

In response to the concerns presented in your letter and this latest development, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health, Mr. Eugene Collins, is currently scheduling a meeting with you and your staff to discuss in detail, the Army's path forward and timeline.

I can assure you that the Army is committed to the protection of human health and the environment at the former Badger AAP, and to addressing risks that may impact the availability of safe drinking water and health of the citizens of Merrimac. Thank you for your patience, understanding, and for your continued support of our Army.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Randall Robinson", is written over the typed name.

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