

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 13, 2019

George Oliver
Chairman and CEO
Johnson Controls International
5757 N. Green Bay Ave.
P.O. Box 591
Milwaukee, WI 53201

Dear Mr. Oliver:

I write to express my concern about the delayed response of Johnson Controls International (JCI) in addressing contamination of the drinking water in the Town of Peshtigo and Marinette, Wisconsin, with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, including PFAS, and to learn why JCI delayed in informing residents of the contamination. PFAS and other highly fluorinated chemicals are known to threaten human health, and since residents were left uninformed for years about the presence of these chemicals in their drinking water, they had no reasonable opportunity to protect themselves from exposure.

I understand that you have been providing treated water to affected residents, and I encourage you to continue this service. However, the contamination is mobile and could spread to additional wells in other homes. Therefore I urge you to continue to provide regular long-term monitoring for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances to all nearby residents with private wells, including those where PFAS has not already been detected.

JCI has stated that Tyco first found evidence of PFAS contamination in the groundwater at its Marinette manufacturing and testing facilities in 2013. Yet residents were not notified of potential water contamination until 2017. Without such notification, residents could not reasonably have had knowledge of the contamination and could do nothing to protect themselves from exposure. This delay in communication with residents resulted in up to four years of potential exposure to these chemicals and their associated serious health risks.

The delay also raises questions about the 2016 merger between Johnson Controls International and Tyco International. I ask that you provide answers to the following questions:

- During this merger, was JCI aware of the presence of contamination from highly fluorinated chemicals at the Tyco manufacturing and testing facility in Marinette?
- Was JCI aware that these contaminants had strong potential to mobilize and spread beyond Tyco's property?

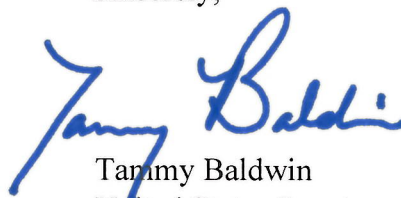
- If JCI was aware of the presence of these compounds, were any plans made for environmental remediation at the site?

Given the health hazards of highly fluorinated chemicals, my constituents are understandably frustrated that Johnson Controls International did not immediately address the PFAS contamination and notify its neighbors of the possibility that it could enter their drinking water. It is well-documented that water-soluble contaminants can move easily within a water table. Knowing that this movement could cause the chemical plumes to migrate towards residential wells and Lake Michigan, which supplies drinking water to hundreds of thousands of people, a wider groundwater testing strategy should have been implemented much earlier. The course of action most protective of human health would have been to issue preliminary public notifications upon the first detection of the chemicals in groundwater.

I appreciate the work JCI has already done to provide immediate solutions for those with contaminated water, and I encourage you to continue to provide these services. However, given the severity of the contamination and potential health effects of exposure to highly fluorinated chemicals, the community also deserves answers about when JCI and Tyco learned of the contamination and why JCI delayed in informing them of the potential for exposure.

Since soil and groundwater remain contaminated, the threat of human exposure to PFAS in this area remains a grave concern. Protecting public health will require a long-term strategy, particularly for ongoing testing to ensure that residents have household water that they know will not harm their health. As you formulate plans for making this right, I ask that you closely collaborate with the residents of Marinette and the Town of Peshtigo to ensure your company's actions meet their needs and respond to their concerns. Thank you for your urgent attention to these requests.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator