

Subject: FW: PFOS Day 27, 12,700,000l

Attachments: 101_1955.JPG

From: Joe Minor [mailto:jminor@cogeco.ca]

Sent: May 17, 2011 12:42 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca; wellandriverkeepers@cogeco.ca; info@npca.ca

Subject: PFOS Day 27, 12,700,000l



To: All City Councillors and the Mayor c/o the Clerk, the Airport Operator, the Welland River Keepers, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, Environment Hamilton, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Environment Canada

Please include this correspondence in the official (publicly accessible) correspondence for the next meeting of Council.

On May 15th, 2001 I revisited the site (N 43.16274° W 79.94191°) of the ongoing contamination of PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate) to the Welland River. The flow of PFOS exiting City (airport) property continues. At the time of my visit I estimated the flow rate to be about 900 l/min. I am concerned that I continue to see no evidence that any action has been taken to reduce the ongoing flow of PFOS leaving City property destined for the Welland River, even though the Ministry of the Environment was notified about the problem 24 days earlier (April 21st).

A photograph of the runoff is attached (101.1955.jpg), video is also available. Please note the heavy sediment load in the runoff. Until such time as either the MOE or Environment Canada release some data, the best available information is that the suspended sediment leaving airport property is contaminated with PFOS at a concentration of 170 ppb (a record high level).

Speaking of governmental data, would the Ministry of the Environment please publicly release the data that they have generated? The MOE collected samples in this area on May 2nd (I saw the MOE vehicles). Assuming the MOE labs are capable of 50% of the speed of private sector testing laboratories, the MOE should have data from the May 2nd samples by now. Please publicly release this public interest information that has been collected at taxpayer expense.

While we wait for government to act, PFOS continues to flow off of airport property destined for the Welland River. The flows were 180 l/min on April 26th, 180 l/min on May 2nd, 30 l/min on May 5th, and 900 l/min on May 15th. I estimate that more than 12 million litres of PFOS contaminated water have drained off airport property and into the Welland River since I notified the Ministry of the Environment of the problem on April 21st.

Considering no remedial action has yet been taken, it would be prudent to take some measures now in order to demonstrate at least a little (greatly belated) concern for the environment. Here is one suggestion: cover the most heavily contaminated area (the fire fighting practice pad, 43.166886°, -79.939753°) with plastic sheeting. If the area covered is larger than the pad, and is drained properly, the cover would keep rain from washing more PFOS out of the pad. If things ever dry out, then perhaps the opportunity to remove the toxic waste for proper disposal could begin. Or, maybe the site could be capped as was done for the Rennie landfill.

Please do something, or at least publicly release what your plans are to deal with this ongoing source of pollution.

Government inaction clock: Day 27: 12,700,000 contaminated liters.

Please do something.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK	
MAY 17 2011	
REC'D BY <i>PC</i>	DATE
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