



Tucson, Marana file suit over contaminated water supply

Anthony Victor Reyes | November 8, 2018

TUCSON – With contaminants like perfluorinated compounds circulating national headlines, the City of Tucson and Town of Marana has filed a lawsuit Thursday against five companies who allegedly caused this compound to seep into public drinking water supply wells.

According to officials, perfluorinated compounds are organic compounds that are used in applications such as nonstick coatings and firefighting foams. They are said to have potential health implications if consumed, with some studies indicating the compound is toxic. Some foams contain PFOs like perfluorooctane sulfonate and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid.

The company 3M, which produces a firefighting, aqueous film-forming foam, was stated as one of the defendants of the lawsuit. While the contaminated wells have been removed from service in Tucson and the process of constructing treatment facilities has begun in Marana, the two entities aim to recover the costs used in treating and removing perfluorinated compounds from the water through this lawsuit.

“Tucson Water, like dozens across the nation, has had to face difficult decisions concerning PFCs in the water, especially in an uncertain regulatory context,” said Paul Napoli, whose firm will be representing Tucson and Marana in the lawsuit. “They have been at the forefront of

protecting its residents by shutting down wells, rotating pumping, and blending clean water supplies.”

The City of Tucson said since 2009, the city’s water supply has tested below the EPA Health Advisory levels for PFOA and PFOS.

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