



CONGRESSMAN DAN KILDEE

“The Defense Department must step up and do more to address PFCs and other dangerous chemicals that have contaminated drinking water at Wurtsmith Air Force Base and other military installations across the country. Conducting a health study is the first step to determine the impact of these harmful substances and ultimately ensure that veterans and anyone exposed gets the care they need.”

– Congressman Dan Kildee

Introduction

Working with Republicans and Democrats, Congressman Dan Kildee successfully pushed for provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that would require the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) to:

- Do a national health study on the impact of harmful perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs).
- Look for alternatives to toxic chemicals like PFCs.
- Provide funding to clean up PFC contamination at military installations across the country.

Health Study

The DOD is now required to conduct a study on the health impacts of exposure to PFCs at military installations, which have been found in high levels in drinking water near Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda, among other places. The study would be conducted through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and will take at least five years to complete.

PFC Alternatives

Because of Congressman Kildee’s efforts, the DOD is now required to submit a report to Congress on the status of developing an alternative to PFCs. It was not until late 2016 that the DOD decided to phase out using PFCs. The U.S. Air Force used PFCs as part of firefighting foam at Wurtsmith Air Force Base and continues to use it at military bases around the country.

Funding to Clean Up PFCs

Because of Congressman Kildee’s efforts, the DOD is now required to spend at least \$70 million to clean up PFCs at Air Force and Navy installations around the country. At Wurtsmith and other areas around the country, experts are attempting to learn more about contamination and how to prevent it from spreading. This funding will help the efforts to ensure people impacted by PFCs can get clean drinking water more quickly and stop exposure to these harmful chemicals.

Need Help?

If you are experiencing an issue with your drinking water or receiving your veteran’s benefits, please contact Jake Bennett in Congressman Kildee’s Flint office at 810-238-8627.