

# Douglas McBride

My response has two parts. First part is my comments on the Agreed Order. Second part is more personal on how this contamination affects us all living here in so many aspects of our lives.

----- Part 1 -----

Reference: Remedial Action by: City of Spokane/Spokane County Agreed Order No. DE 24355.

Page 13 of 21 (pdf page 37) Bulleted point 10 says "Provision of clean drinking water and/or installation of treatment systems for impacted residences or businesses".

There is very little in the AO about providing people safe water.

My comments:

1. With the responsible party identified, please do not delay installing the whole house/farm water systems to the affected people. It is people's lives at stake.
2. Please make sure to add a section that the responsible part needs to provide the whole house system hardware, installation, provide all the maintenance of the entire system, including scheduled replacement elements, repairs to hardware of these systems, and emergency callout service in case of system failure. The costs to supply/maintain these systems will be provided to the homeowner at no cost until a time in the future the water is safe to drink. I would like to see it noted that these costs will be covered into the future, even if it takes decades till our water runs clean again.
3. We are a small farm and need clean water for our animals and irrigation. The size of the filtration system being provided needs to be big enough to meet the farmers/ranchers' needs. We don't want to irrigate the fields or animals with contaminated water; to later find out we can't sell our future products as they are contaminated too. The order should include a statement that the size of the filtration system provided will adequately cover the size of the business/farm. The costs of maintaining the larger systems will be provided at no cost to the farmer/ranchers. Maintenance and filter elements will continue to be provided at no cost to the owners until the water is considered safe levels for humans to drink. City water is not an good option for farmers as we use a lot of water. If the water we use is not safe, then we are putting unsafe food products into distribution and on the plates of unsuspecting consumers.
4. Wells affected should receive at a minimum, twice a year sampling provided at no charge to the landowners. Wells that have previously tested negative should be tested annually as the chemical is spreading.
5. Add a provision for future wells testing positive, should be covered, even if outside the current spread map. The chemical is moving and people need protection.

----- Part 2 ---

A bit more of my story so others can see how this contaminated water affects families in aspects of

their daily life and the loss of parents from cancer.

My parents homesteaded our 50 acres over 55 years ago. I grew up on this farm. My parents lived on this property continuously until their deaths three years ago. Their only source of water was from the deep wells on this property.

My parents both died (3-months apart) from similar cancer. I took care of my parents so I will never forget the memories of how the cancer manifests, the severe pain and agony each of them suffered until they died. I hope our actions will help others avoid going through what my family endured.

After their death, I paid for a water test and it showed high in the PFOA family of chemicals. Yikes, the water we drank for half a century was contaminated! Immediately we put our house and rental house on bottled water.

My aunt, who lived with my parents for years, had her blood tested. Results came back positive for PFOAs. She was scared and moved out to a place in town.

I am a triple cancer survivor and really would like your help to keep my family, kids and grandkids safe from this chemical.

We currently have single POU filtered water faucet in our home and our rental house. As you might know, keeping water pitchers around the house is a chore. Even worse is trying to remember not to use the water from the contaminated faucets. For example, before you brush your teeth, you must first go to the kitchen and get a glass of filtered water. When you want to take your pills, you make another trip to the kitchen for more clean water.

My wife has been diagnosed with a medical-memory condition. It is very hard for her to remember NOT to use the bathrooms water to take her medications or brush her teeth. In the kitchen, she gets confused as it is ok to use contaminated water from the kitchen sink to wash the dishes BUT you must put the faucet's handle in a different position before you fill your pot for cooking or drinking. Feels like life and death are both connected to the same faucet, just a swing of the handle put you in danger.

My father was one of this area's Washington State Fire Commissioners for 30 years. Please help honor his 3 decades of volunteer service to this community by helping us making our water safe again.

Again, we hope our story helps the team see the need for whole house filters. We don't want anyone else to have to witness the painful suffering and agony from a cancer death.

Sincerely,  
Douglas McBride