

Janice Nibi Ogichidaa Ikwe Erickson

I'm officially asking for an extension on this Comment period. We live, work, hunt, fish, gather, and our kids play at the Prairie Island Indian Community. My family and my community are directly affected by this devastating life changing forever chemical waste. We live just a few miles down river from this 3M forever chemical waste dump. Our water, wildrice, fish, plants/medicines, trees, beaches, birds, wells, wetlands, wildflowers, wildlife, and Traditional Ways of Life are all at extreme risk from forever chemical waste pollution.

Please understand that our Traditional ways of Life are centered around having clean water! Everything we know and do is directly connected to our sacred and spiritual connection to clean water!

I am officially requesting a Delay in Permit issuance. We require sufficient time to communicate effectively the extreme risk we are now expected to live with. Most people do NOT even know this comment period exists or what happens in your final decision making process. We have not been given a fair amount of time to express our deep connections to our lands and waters. Our Tribal input is valid, valuable, and wise. We should be given open seats at your decision making tables!

Did you include Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)?

Did you consider we are deeply spiritually connected to our Lands & Waters?

Did you reach out directly to us individuals & families who are most directly affected by these forever chemicals? We will be getting the worst of the damage because we are so close to the forever chemical pollution source.

Did you consider we have already been told to only eat 1 fish per year from our waters?

Did you consider that pregnant woman are already told to NOT eat anything from our waters because of forever chemical pollution. Known side effects include miscarriage, baby born with deformities, and cancers.

Did you consider the fact that these chemicals build up in our bodies over time and we have already been exposed without our consent.

We are literally being poisoned by long term exposure to forever chemicals in our waters.

Do you have any solutions, backup solutions, or remedies available to help our Tribal families and community?

Do you have Tribal Liaisons to work directly with the Tribe, Tribal families, and Tribal communities? If so, nobody ever contacted me or my family about any of this!

Is there an accurate list for direct contact with those that live along the river where these forever chemicals are being dumped?

What about unknown emergencies that could take place in the future?

Have you considered that in our way of life, we are responsible for looking out for the next 7 generations! They are all counting on us to do the right thing! Water is Life 💎

Did you include our valuable Tribal input and serious questions of concern about our Tribes future in your permit?

Please reach out so we can work through this together. I am willing to help us move forward in a good way!

Water is Life 💎

Pidamaya Miigwech Thank you