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Napoli Shkolnik Files Complaint on behalf of the City of Wausau, Wisconsin Against Fifteen PFAS Manufacturers and Sixty-One Major Players in the Insurance Industry

New York, N.Y. -- Napoli Shkolnik has filed a Lawsuit on behalf of the City of Wausau, Wisconsin against numerous defendants, including fifteen chemical manufacturers and sixty-one insurance companies.

This action arises from the contamination of groundwater by per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances ("PFAS"), a group of human-made chemicals that have been widely used in various industrial and consumer products.

The City of Wausau is the owner and operator of a water system serving approximately 40,000 residents located in and around the City of Wausau, WI. It draws the drinking water it provides to customers from six groundwater wells. The city has detected PFAS in its groundwater wells, as a direct and proximate result of the use of these chemicals by Defendants and other manufacturing companies in the area, resulting in the migration of PFAS into the city's water supply.

Defendants purchased commercial general liability and excess umbrella insurance policies from the Insurance Company Defendants to cover liability, in whole or in part, for the City of Wausau's injuries caused using PFAS and are therefore subject to suit by Wis. Stat. § 632.24. These policies were in full force and effect during the time that the Defendants committed the actions complained of.

"Local government taxpayers and water district ratepayers should not be responsible for PFAS drinking water contamination. Those responsible, including relevant insurance companies, which have responsibility for public water system contamination should be accountable. The extent of the City of Wausau's PFAS is well documented, and we will vigorously pursue justice for the city and its taxpayers," said Paul J. Napoli.

PFAS have been found to persist in the environment and have been linked to potential health risks. As a result, many communities have been grappling with the challenges of addressing PFAS contamination in their public water supplies. In fact, the United States EPA is in the process of regulating these contaminants as adverse to human health.



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“The people of Wausau trusted that those corporations that earned billions of dollars creating products that were in nearly every household in America, were doing so without putting our community’s health and resources at risk,” said Wausau Mayor Katie Rosenberg. “However, over the last two years I’ve learned that every single one of Wausau’s drinking water wells was and is contaminated with PFAS. Wausau residents and policymakers rallied to ensure that every Wausau Waterworks customer can trust what is coming out of their tap – but it came at great public expense. Today we are demanding that those responsible for the contamination are held accountable to the people of Wausau.”

ABOUT NAPOLI SHKOLNIK

Napoli Shkolnik is a national law firm providing representation in complex environmental litigation, including cases involving hazardous substances and their adverse impact on communities. With a dedicated team of attorneys and a proven track record of success, Napoli Shkolnik provides exceptional legal representation and fights for justice on behalf of the City of Wausau and others affected by environmental wrongdoing.

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