

LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Brown County

Agriculture and Extension Service Center
1150 Bellevue Street
Green Bay, WI 54302
Phone: (920) 391-4620 Fax: (920) 391-4617
hafs_bc@co.brown.wi.us
[LCD Web Site: www.co.brown.wi.us/land_conservation/](http://www.co.brown.wi.us/land_conservation/)

BILL HAFS
COUNTY CONSERVATIONIST

February 16, 2006

Governor Jim Doyle
115 E. State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Governor Doyle-

This letter is a request to you to declare a State of Emergency for southeastern Brown County.

Approximately 2 weeks ago landowners began contacting local government and DNR with complaints of contaminated wells. Several have experienced flu -like symptoms. We have sampled 42 wells to date and 20 are unsafe.

The Land Conservation Department in coordination with DNR and Brown County Health has provided well information to many of the residents of Wayside. We have mapped the unsafe wells (E. coli and coliform) and found many to be concentrated near the small hamlet of Wayside, Wisconsin. The Township of Morrison in which Wayside is located has high concentrations of karst features (shallow soils, sinkholes, bedrock features).

Declaring a State of Emergency would help:

- (1.) Stop the land spreading of all waste (animal, human, industrial, septic) until the ground becomes unfrozen and not covered with snow thereby preventing land spread wastes from becoming polluted runoff and entering groundwater through karst features.
- (2.) Increase awareness of unsafe drinking water supplies for the residents which include elderly, people on fixed incomes and children. Schools, day care, assisted living facilities for the elderly, and private residents are located in Wayside.
- (3.) Provide an awareness of the importance of properly abandoning old unused wells in the Township which are direct conduits to the groundwater.
- (4.) Assist with funding opportunities to help remediate the pollution of the groundwater in Southeastern Brown County.

I can provide maps with this information if needed. Thank you for consideration in this most important matter.

Sincerely,



Bill Hafs
Brown County Land Conservation Department