

The City of Decatur (“City”), Morgan County (“County”), and Decatur Utilities (“DU”) are parties in two cases, one case pending in State Court and the other pending in Federal Court. These cases concern the presence of PFAS in the environment in our area. Other than the City, County, and DU, there are seven (7) other parties in these cases. There are many complex environmental issues being addresses in these cases. All of the parties in these cases are participating in court ordered mediation in an effort to resolve all of the claims and issues raised in these cases.

On behalf of the City, County and DU we are pursuing claims in that mediation which relate to the Decatur-Morgan County Regional Landfill, expenses incurred by DU relating to PFAS, the presence of PFAS at three former closed landfills located at what is now the Aquadome site, on Deer Springs Road and Old Moulton Road, and to provide for the protection of these governmental entities in the future from any new regulations or laws relating to PFAS.

Although we recognize the complexity in these cases, we also wish that these cases could have been resolved sooner. However, the claims and issues in these cases are much more complicated than simply involving the purchase of a closed school like Brookhaven. The City, County, and DU are diligently working in this litigation to insure that the citizens in our area are protected in the future from the presence of these chemicals in our environment. If a settlement is reached, it will involve much more than the \$1.25 million dollars that the school system was paid for the Brookhaven School site. In mediation, by Order of the Courts, all actions in these cases are stayed (put on hold) pending further Order of those Courts. So, we are barred by Court Orders at this time to pursue claims in Court against 3M until allowed to do so by the Courts.

As to your specific questions about the safety of the Aquadome, we have independently tested the water in the pool at the Aquadome which is supplied by DU. Those tests have shown the level of PFAS to be well below the EPA lifetime advisory for drinking water. We are unaware of any public health hazard relating to being physically present in the Aquadome facility which is located on land that contains PFAS, but in the mediation we are certainly addressing those concerns that have been raised.

Below is the information we have learned about dermal and other exposure to PFAS from experts and by independent governmental agencies who have studied these chemicals:

In the summer of 2019, State Health Officer Scott Harris said the Alabama Department of Public Health has not received any reports of health hazards associated with people in the area shared by the old Brookhaven Middle School campus and Aquadome Recreation Center. "Swallowing or dermal contact with PFAS-containing surface water through recreational activities are not expected to cause harm to human health," Harris said

"Studies have shown that only a small amount of PFAS can get into your body through your skin. Therefore, showering and bathing in water containing PFAS should not increase exposure. Washing dishes in water containing PFAS should not increase exposure." <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/pfas-exposure.html>

"In Minnesota lakes and rivers: PFAS may be present in lakes and rivers at very low levels. MDH has determined that exposure to PFAS through swimming is not of concern. PFAS are poorly absorbed through skin and swallowing small amounts of water while swimming will not result in significant exposure. Also, because there is little evaporation of PFAS from water into the air, breathing them in while swimming or bathing is not a health concern." www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/hazardous/docs/pfash_ealth.pdf

"...incidental swallowing or dermal contact with PFAS-containing surface water via recreational activities (swimming, water sports, etc.) in these areas are not expected to cause harm to human health." www.michigan.gov/documents/pfasresponse/Thornapple-PFAS-Presentation-DEQ-DHHS-and-GFIA_637315_7.pdf