Reviewer’s report

Title: Making the Invisible Visible: Results of a Community-Led Health Survey Following PFAS Contamination of Drinking Water in Merrimack, New Hampshire

Version: 1 Date: 30 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Thomas Bruton

Summary and Recommendation:

The authors have addressed all of the points I raised in my initial review, and I recommend that the manuscript be accepted for publication after a few more minor edits. The authors have put together a manuscript that is both technically valuable and a compelling read.

Specific Comments:

1. Page 9, Line 175: This should say "New Jersey Drinking Water Quality Institute" rather than "New Jersey Water Quality Institute".


3. Page 12, Line 243: I recommend cutting the phrase "Compared to Pease"

4. Pages 14-16, Health Effects of PFAS section: I suggest that the first two paragraphs about the chemistry, uses, and environmental fate of PFAS go into too much detail here. Moreover, most of this information is not so relevant to health effects and would be a better fit at the beginning of the background section.

5. Page 16, Line 356: It is unclear whether "weakened immune system" refers to mothers or babies.
6. Page 18, Line 381: The word "perfluorinated" is misspelled.

7. Page 25, Line 545: This sentence refers to a Figure 3, but I believe it should be Figure 2.

8. Page 27, 1st paragraph: It seems unusual to refer to birth defects, low birth weight, etc. as reproductive problems experienced by infants. A more standard way of referring to these would be "developmental problems".

9. Page 28, Line 631: Given that the previous sentence says that the population has been exposed to elevated levels of PFOA through drinking water, it is confusing to read in the next sentence that the respondents "were also on MVD water, which was found to be contaminated…" I suggest reworking this to eliminate redundancy.

10. Page 31, 2nd paragraph: This section would be fit more logically in the health effects section of the introduction.

**Level of interest**
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?
6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.