



# CITY OF DECATUR ILLINOIS

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DECATUR, ILLINOIS 62523-1196

April 20, 2022

Re: Notice of PFAS Sample Results

Dear City of Decatur Water Customer,

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) recently tested the City's water system for 18 compounds known as Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) as part of a statewide investigation of community water supplies. PFAS are a group of thousands of manmade substances that have been produced in the United States since the 1940s and utilized for a variety of applications ranging from water and stain-proofing to firefighting. Some PFAS have been phased out of production in the United States due to environmental and human health concerns, yet they persist in the environment and may be found in surface and ground waters.

Neither the Illinois EPA nor the U.S. EPA have yet developed enforceable drinking water standards for PFAS. In the interim, Illinois EPA has developed health-based guidance levels for the small number of PFAS for which there is appropriate information to do so. The health-based guidance levels are intended to be protective of all people consuming the water over a lifetime of exposure.

While none of the compounds sampled were above the health-based guidance levels, Illinois EPA testing has determined that one PFAS compound was detected in our water system at levels greater than or equal to the lowest concentration the laboratory can reliably detect, shown as the Minimum Reporting Level in the table below. The levels are presented in units of nanogram per liter (ng/L) or parts per trillion (ppt). ND indicates that the compound was Non-Detectable (undetected).

PFAS Compound	Acronym	Minimum Reporting Level (ng/L)	Health-Based Guidance Level (ng/L)	Analytical Result (ng/L) 12/17/2020	Analytical Result (ng/L) 1/19/2021
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid	PFBS	2	2,100	ND	ND
Perfluoroheptanoic acid	PFHpA	2	---	ND	ND
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid	PFHxS	2	140	ND	ND
Perfluorononanoic acid	PFNA	2	21	ND	ND
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid	PFOS	2	14	ND	ND
Perfluorooctanoic acid	PFOA	2	2	ND	ND
Perfluorodecanoic acid	PFDA	2	---	ND	ND
Perfluorododecanoic acid	PFDoA	2	---	ND	ND
Perfluorohexanoic acid	PFHxA	2	560,000	2.4	2.6
Perfluorotetradecanoic acid	PFTA	2	---	ND	ND
Perfluorotridecanoic acid	PFTDA	2	---	ND	ND
Perfluoroundecanoic acid	PFUnA	2	---	ND	ND
11-chloroeicosafluoro-3-oxaundecane-1-sulfonic acid	11Cl-PF3OUdS	2	---	ND	ND
9-chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxanone-1-sulfonic acid	9Cl-PF3ONS	2	---	ND	ND
4,8-dioxa-3H-perfluorononanoic acid	ADONA	2	---	ND	ND

Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid	HFPO-DA	2	560	ND	ND
N-ethyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid	NEtFOSAA	2	---	ND	ND
N-methyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid	NMeFOSAA	2	---	ND	ND

\*Toxicity criteria is not available to calculate a health-based guidance level.

**Only one PFAS compound, Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) was detected in the City's water system. The detection level was 2.4 ng/L and 2.6 ng/L which is significantly below the Health-Based Guidance Level of 560,000 ng/L.**

PFAS are present in many consumer goods, including food packaging and personal care products, and scientists have found levels of PFAS in the blood of nearly all individuals tested. Exposure to high levels of PFAS over time may cause adverse health effects such as increased cholesterol levels, increased risk of thyroid disease, low infant birth weight, reduced response to vaccines, pregnancy-induced hypertension and increased risk of liver and kidney cancer as seen in studies of laboratory animals. Exposure to PFAS above the recommended health-based guidance levels does not mean that a person will get sick or an adverse health effect will occur. Health-based guidance levels are conservative estimates. The possible health effects of PFAS are dependent on how much a person is exposed to and how they are exposed to it. Exposure to PFAS above recommended health-based guidance levels for periods of time may mean that a person is at a greater risk of experiencing these adverse effects.

In response to the results of this testing, the City of Decatur has done the following:

1. Generated this Public Notice Letter to inform water consumers about PFAS Testing and Sampling results.
2. Created a PFAS Public Education document to be available on the City of Decatur's website or to pick up by request.
3. Completed one full year of quarterly PFAS sampling resulting in non-detectable limits for all PFAS tested.
4. Annually sample and review PFAS results to determine appropriate steps to reduce public exposure.

Additional information regarding PFAS, the statewide PFAS investigation network and the impact to public health can be found in the attached fact sheet as well as on the Illinois EPA PFAS webpage:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/water-quality/pfas/Pages/default.aspx>.

The confirmed sampling results for the City of Decatur are also available on Illinois EPA's Drinking Water Watch system at <http://water.epa.state.il.us/dww/index.jsp>.

This document can be found on the City's website at: <https://decaturil.gov/2022-PFAS-Notification>

If you have questions, please contact:

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### **What are PFAS?**

Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances are a group of thousands of chemicals collectively known as PFAS. Since the 1940s, PFAS have been used in manufacturing, firefighting, water- and oil-resistant products, and many consumer products such as carpet, clothing, cosmetics, and food packaging. Two of the most common compounds within this class, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), stopped being produced in the United States (U.S.) in the early 2000s, but these compounds may still be present in imported goods.

Most people are exposed to these chemicals from water, food, and consumer products. PFAS are very stable and do not break down easily in the environment. They are often referred to as “forever chemicals.”

### **What are the potential health concerns associated with PFAS exposure?**

Studies indicate that exposures to high levels of PFAS contaminated water over time may cause certain adverse health effects. Exposure to PFAS above the recommended Guidance Levels does not necessarily mean that a person will get sick or an adverse health effect will occur. Research on the health effects associated with PFAS is ongoing.

Scientific studies of laboratory animals, as well as studies on human populations exposed to PFOA and PFOS over periods of time, have shown that exposure to PFOA and PFOS above certain levels may result in adverse effects such as:

- increased cholesterol levels
- changes in liver enzymes
- decreased response to vaccines in children
- increased risk of high blood pressure or pre-eclampsia in pregnant women
- small decreases in infant birth weight
- increased risk of kidney or testicular cancer

If you have specific health concerns, please consult your health care professional.

### **What should you do if PFAS have been detected in your drinking water?**

Exposure to PFAS in drinking water can be minimized by

- using bottled water that has been tested for PFAS for drinking, cooking, and preparing infant formula.
- installing filters or treatment systems certified by American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or NSF International for the reduction of PFOA and PFOS. A searchable list is available here: <http://info.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU/>.

Boiling water does not destroy PFAS.

You can safely use your water for bathing and showering as PFAS is not easily absorbed into the skin.

### **Background**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) evaluates the presence of emerging and unregulated contaminants in community water supplies on a national basis pursuant to the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). U.S. EPA uses the data collected from these sample results to establish new drinking water standards known as maximum contaminant levels or MCLs. Traditionally, U.S. EPA develops MCLs that are then adopted by the states and used to determine if additional actions are needed to respond to contaminant concerns in drinking water. U.S. EPA has started the regulatory process for listing MCLs for PFOA and PFOS.

In 2016, U.S. EPA adopted a Lifetime Health Advisory for PFOA and PFOS of 70 parts per trillion (ppt), both individually and combined when both are present. This is a non-enforceable value intended to provide guidance for evaluating unregulated drinking water contaminants.

Given the concern about these unregulated contaminants, Illinois EPA developed health-based Guidance Levels for PFOA, PFOS, and five other PFAS, perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) and Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA) using the procedures from 35 Illinois Administrative Code 620. In 2020, Illinois EPA also initiated a statewide investigation of all community water systems to determine how commonly PFAS can be found in community drinking water supplies. Illinois EPA will compare the analytical results of this testing with the PFAS Guidance Levels to help community water supplies evaluate future actions that may need to be taken. This data will also be used to aid in the development of future regulatory standards in Illinois.

The confirmed sampling results are available on Illinois EPA's Drinking Water Watch system at <http://water.epa.state.il.us/dww/index.jsp>.

### **Additional Information**

Illinois EPA: <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/water-quality/pfas/Pages/default.aspx>

United States Environmental Protection Agency: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [https://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/PFAS\\_FactSheet.html](https://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/PFAS_FactSheet.html)

Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>