**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

The Elsberry Public Water System participated in the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR) statewide initiative to test drinking water from public water systems for a group of manmade chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). MoDNR is taking this precautionary step of testing these drinking water sources to determine if public health actions are needed. This notice is to inform you of the recent results of the PFAS testing completed, which indicate the presence of one or more PFAS in the drinking water that exceed established levels set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). You may want to consider actions to reduce your exposure while steps are being taken to reduce the levels found in our public water supply.

PFAS have been widely used for decades in different business and manufacturing processes. Major sources of PFAS in drinking water include discharges from manufacturing and industrial chemical facilities, use of certain consumer products, occupational exposures, and certain firefighting activities. PFAS are highly persistent chemicals that do not break down in the environment and move easily into water. Because of their widespread use and persistence in the environment, PFAS are found in the blood of people and animals all over the world. Scientific testing shows they are generally present at low levels in a variety of food products and in the environment. While consumer products and food are a large source of exposure to these chemicals for most people, drinking water can be an additional source in communities where these chemicals have contaminated water supplies.

There are many PFAS that have been created since the 1940’s for industrial and consumer purposes. Many of these PFAS are not regulated drinking water contaminants and as a result, do not currently have any public health comparison values. However, on April 26, 2024, the EPA published a final PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation that establishes non-regulatory and non-enforceable Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) and legally enforceable Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for several of the most widely used and studied PFAS. This rule establishes individual MCLGs and MCLs for Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA), Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS), Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acid (HFPO-DA or GenX), Perfluorohexanesulphonic Acid (PFHxS), and Perfluorononanoic Acid (PFNA). Additionally, this rule establishes a Hazard Index MCL that considers concentrations of PFHxS, PFNA, GenX, and Perfluorobutane Sulfonate (PFBS) in a PFAS mixture. These MCLs apply to lifetime exposures to the general public, as well as to shorter-term exposures of weeks to months for women during pregnancy and breastfeeding. Starting April 26, 2029, water systems with PFAS in their water supply exceeding an established MCL will be required to implement solutions to reduce PFAS exposure.

It should be noted that scientific understanding of PFAS is evolving. The scientific community is working to better understand what levels of PFAS found in drinking water are of concern for public health, and research on health effects from PFAS exposure is ongoing. Given this, MCLs or other health comparison values for additional PFAS may be developed in the future based on increased understanding of PFAS toxicity.

All PFAS results from water systems that have participated in MoDNR’s PFAS monitoring studies can be found using the interactive Missouri PFAS Viewer located on the MoDNR’s webpage:

(<https://dnr.mo.gov/pollutants-emerging-concern/perfluoroalkyl-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>).

We are providing this advisory on the use of your drinking water based on the recent PFAS levels that were detected in the water supply that exceed EPA’s established MCLs. You may want to consider actions to reduce your exposure including the installation of some type of whole home or countertop water treatment device while steps are being taken to reduce the levels found in your public water supply. In particular, it is important for consumers in sensitive populations (pregnant women, nursing mothers, and infants) to consider actions to reduce exposure. If a water treatment device is considered, it should be certified to reduce PFAS and be installed on the tap used for drinking, cooking, and preparing infant formula. Information on water treatment devices certified to reduce PFAS is available at:

<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/water-filter-fact-sheet.pdf>

Your health and safety are our priority. The MoDNR is actively working to obtain more information about PFAS in the state as quickly as possible and to provide financial and technical assistance to systems to help them implement cost-effective solutions. We will continue to work with MoDNR to evaluate options and alternatives to reduce the levels of PFAS in the public water supply, such as identifying and installing a treatment technology or an alternative water source.

For more information on PFAS, including possible health outcomes, please visit the following websites:

* <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>
* <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-10/final-virtual-pfas-explainer-508.pdf>
* <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas>
* <https://pfas-1.itrcweb.org/>

The MCLGs, MCLs and our tested drinking water detections for PFAS are summarized as parts per trillion (ppt) in the table below. (PFAS without an established MCLG or MCL are represented with levels of not applicable (n/a).)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PFAS Contaminant** | **Final MCLG****(Non-enforceable Levels)** | **Final MCL****(Enforceable Levels)** | **Highest Level Detected (ppt)** |
| PFOA | Zero | 4.0 ppt | 3.0 ppt |
| PFOS | Zero | 4.0 ppt | 2.7 ppt |
| PFHxS | 10 ppt | 10 ppt | 26 ppt |
| PFNA | 10 ppt | 10 ppt | < RL\* |
| HFPO-DA (commonly known as GenX) | 10 ppt | 10 ppt | < RL\* |
| Mixtures containing two or more ofPFHxS, PFNA, GenX, and PFBS | 1 (unitless)Hazard Index | 1 (unitless)Hazard Index | 2.6385 |
| Perfluorobutane Sulfonate (PFBS) | n/a | n/a | 7.7 ppt |

 **\*RL = Reporting Limit; The lowest concentration that a laboratory can report with a reasonable degree of confidence.**

**What should I do?**

If you have a severely compromised immune system, have young children, are pregnant, are elderly, or have other specific health concerns, you may be at increased risk from repeated exposures and should seek advice from your healthcare providers about drinking this water.

If you are concerned about the level of PFAS found in your drinking water, consider actions that may reduce your exposure while our water system works to address PFAS levels. These actions may include the following:

* Install a home filter. Use certified filters to remove PFAS from your drinking water. For more information about home filters, see the EPA’s resource: [https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/water-filter-fact-sheet.pdf](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/water-filter-fact-sheet.pdf__;!!EErPFA7f--AJOw!BbPCICQ5_45fn0EZyfzmTeSC52oAM-AZC_uFAcfwDUF8kCoHuxbBsvo1CZ8b9t9KKdEzq8Pq5XzHvmJ9U9AUdzv6$).
* NSF certified filters can be found at: <https://www.nsf.org/consumer-resources/articles/pfoa-pfos-drinking-water>
* Do not boil your water. Boiling, freezing, or letting water stand does not reduce PFAS levels.
* Use an alternative water source (e.g., bottled water). If you are using bottled water, make sure it meets U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and/or state bottled water safety standards. In addition, the International Bottled Water Association requires its members to test for PFAS annually.
* Contact your doctor or health care professional if you are concerned about the potential health effects from exposure.

**Additional Health Effect Information**

**PFOA**: Some people who drink water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over many years may have increased health risks such as cardiovascular, immune, and liver effects, as well as increased incidence of certain types of cancers including kidney and testicular cancer. In addition, there may be increased risks of developmental and immune effects for people who drink water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL following repeated exposure during pregnancy and/or childhood.

**PFOS**: Some people who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over many years may have increased health risks such as cardiovascular, immune, and liver effects, as well as increased incidence of certain types of cancers including liver cancer. In addition, there may be increased risks of developmental and immune effects for people who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL following repeated exposure during pregnancy and/or childhood.

**PFHxS**: Some people who drink water containing PFHxS in excess of the MCL over many years may have increased health risks such as immune, thyroid, and liver effects. In addition, there may be increased risks of developmental effects for people who drink water containing PFHxS in excess of the MCL following repeated exposure during pregnancy and/or childhood.

**PFNA**: Some people who drink water containing PFNA in excess of the MCL over many years may have increased health risks such as elevated cholesterol levels, immune effects, and liver effects. In addition, there may be increased risks of developmental effects for people who drink water containing PFNA in excess of the MCL following repeated exposure during pregnancy and/or childhood.

**HFPO-DA or GenX**: Some people who drink water containing HFPO-DA in excess of the MCL over many years may have increased health risks such as immune, liver, and kidney effects. There is also a potential concern for cancer associated with HFPO-DA exposure. In addition, there may be increased risks of developmental effects for people who drink water containing HFPO-DA in excess of the MCL following repeated exposure during pregnancy and/or childhood.

**Hazard Index**: Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) can persist in the human body and exposure may lead to increased risk of adverse health effects. Low levels of multiple PFAS that individually would not likely result in increased risk of adverse health effects may result in adverse health effects when combined in a mixture. Some people who consume drinking water containing mixtures of PFAS in excess of the Hazard Index (HI) MCL may have increased health risks such as liver, immune, and thyroid effects following exposure over many years and developmental and thyroid effects following repeated exposure during pregnancy and/or childhood.