



To: All Portageville Citizens
From: Portageville Board of Aldermen

Important Information Regarding Public Water Supply

Earlier this month, the City of Portageville was notified by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) of the results of voluntary water testing conducted the past summer. The purpose of this voluntary testing was to determine the occurrence and concentration of a widely used, long lasting chemical commonly known as PFAS. PFAS, or polyfluoroalkyl substances, is a group of 18 compounds that have been used for decades in industrial chemicals, food packaging, waterproof clothing, Teflon, fire fighting foam and a host of other products. The results from the voluntary testing found the sample contained 3 parts per trillion of a PFAS component, perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOS.

Until recently, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had set the acceptable limits of PFAS exposure to 70 parts per trillion; however, due to ongoing scientific discussion of possible adverse health effects of PFAS exposure, the EPA updated its limits to no more than 0.02 parts per trillion. Therefore, the City of Portageville is issuing a "Public Health Advisory" on PFAS content within our city water supply.

While the EPA's reduction and the City's Health Advisory is done out of an abundance of caution and a desire to see these exposures "as close to zero" as possible, it is important to remember that the discussion and study of PFAS exposure health impacts is still ongoing. The concentration in our city water supply is roughly equal to 3 milliliters (3 drops) of PFAS in our 264,172,052 gallons of water. This Public Health Advisory is being issued to keep our residents informed after the reduction of the acceptable EPA level by over 3500 times.

The Portageville City Council recognizes the presence of any PFAS component within our water supply as an issue that must be addressed and solved. The Council is working with State and Federal partners, as well as engineers, to develop and implement a hazard mitigation plan to eliminate any PFAS exposure to our water supply. Additional information on PFAS can be found in the links contained within the Public Health Advisory.

As always, the City will update our residents on any future developments of this situation and plans for its mitigation. Laboratory test results are available upon request at City Hall. Please feel free to contact members of the Portageville City Council with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Vince Berry, Mayor
Kristine Adams, Alderman Ward 1
Patty Johnson, Alderman Ward 1
Rodi Walker, Alderman Ward 2
Shirley Estes, Alderman Ward 2

PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The City of Portageville 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 results of the PFAS analysis completed. It should be noted that it is not uncommon to find low levels of PFAS in drinking water supplies, as PFAS have been widely used for decades, and are found in industrial applications, household and consumer products, food packaging, and firefighting foams. 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, and are 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.

PFAS are not federally regulated drinking water contaminants, and many of these chemicals do not currently have any public health comparison values. However, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had established non-regulatory Lifetime Health Advisories (LHAs) for two of the most widely used and studied PFAS chemicals, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). PFOA and PFOS have been replaced in the United States with other PFAS in recent years. In chemical and product manufacturing, Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA) and its ammonium salt (referred to as "GenX chemicals") are considered a replacement for PFOA, and perfluorobutane sulfonate (PFBS) is considered a replacement for PFOS. On June 15, 2022, EPA released revised interim LHA levels for PFOA and PFOS of 0.004 parts per trillion (ppt) and 0.02 ppt respectively. The EPA also released final LHA levels for PFBS and GenX of 2,000 ppt and 10 ppt respectively. These LHAs 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. MoDNR and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services use these LHAs to inform decisions on actions that should be taken, or are recommended, to reduce exposure and prevent increased risk to public health from these PFAS contaminants.

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, the LHAs or other comparison values for PFAS compounds may change in the future based on increased understanding of PFAS toxicity.

All PFAS results for our water system 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>).

Based on the test results, we are providing an advisory on the use of your drinking water. Since the levels of PFAS found in your drinking water are above EPA's LHAs, consider actions that may reduce your exposure, including installing a home water treatment device while steps are being taken to reduce the levels found in your public water supply, to further understand levels of concern, and to potentially regulate PFAS at the national level. In particular, it is important for consumers in sensitive subgroups (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.nsf.org/knowledge-library/forever-chemicals-advancement-filtration-standards>

Your health and safety are our priority. The State of Missouri is actively working to obtain more information about PFAS in our state as quickly as possible. Additional testing is ongoing throughout the state, which will help answer more questions, and determine next steps. We will continue working with MoDNR to evaluate alternatives to reduce the levels of PFAS in the public water supply, such as identifying and installing a treatment technology or 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/2022-06/drinking-water-ha-pfas-factsheet-communities.pdf>
- <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas>
- <https://pfas-1.itrcweb.org/>