

Chatsworth Water Works Commission
Drinking Water Information Advisory Regarding PFAS
September 2, 2022

On June 15, 2022, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released new drinking water Health Advisories for four different compounds of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances known by the abbreviations PFOA, PFOS, PFBS and GenX. These substances are collectively referred to as “PFAS.” PFAS is a group of manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1940s because of their useful properties. These substances were widely used to make carpets, clothing, fabrics, and paper packaging for food and other materials.

EPA’s Health Advisories provide information on contaminants that can cause human health effects and are known or anticipated to occur in drinking water. The advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory and are intended for informational purposes only. EPA developed the new Health Advisories using conservative assumptions about lifetime exposure, potential impacts to sensitive populations, and other potential sources of exposure beyond drinking water, all of which provide additional layers of protectiveness. The EPA Science Advisory Board is still reviewing EPA’s analyses, so the recent Health Advisories could change. In addition, later this year, EPA is expected to issue legally enforceable regulations for PFAS in drinking water.

EPA encourages states, drinking water utilities, and community leaders that find PFAS in their drinking water to take steps to inform residents, undertake additional monitoring to investigate potential sources, and examine steps to reduce exposure. The Chatsworth Water Works Commission (CWWC) has been working closely with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for several years to sample for and monitor PFAS levels in our drinking water. Sampling results for all utilities, including CWWC’s (includes sampling data for CWWC’s raw water intakes and for water purchased by CWWC from nearby water providers in Calhoun and Dalton), are available to the public on the Georgia EPD [website](#).

Based on the results of prior sampling, CWWC has taken proactive and precautionary steps to minimize the levels of PFAS in our water system, including the shutdown of the Eton Springs raw water intake. Importantly, all of our most recent water samples indicated PFAS levels *below* EPA’s current reporting limit of 4 parts per trillion.

Going forward, a new enforceable limit for these chemicals is expected to be announced by the EPA by the end of the year. It is expected that the limits will be set at levels well above the current Health Advisory level. At this time, we are unsure of the long-term implications since the enforceable limits have not been determined. CWWC facilities, as well as our purchased water sources, may be below the future permitted limit.

CWWC is working closely with the EPD for long-term planning and will continue to monitor and sample all water sources to ensure there are no changes in the current levels. CWWC is committed to serve Murray County and its citizens. Protection of public health and the environment and the quality of your drinking water are our top priorities. We will continue to look for the safest means to operate, while continuing to work on advancements in our system and technology to meet the current and future needs of our customers.

Additional information regarding PFASs and the current EPA Health Advisory is available at the following links.

EPA's Drinking Water Health Advisories

<https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>

EPA's Health Advisories Q&A

<https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/questions-and-answers-drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-pfos-genx-chemicals-and-pfbs>

Ga EPD PFOA & PFOS Story Map with Recorded Levels by Location

<https://gaepd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=e8f2c6a51c1c41088002350f1eabe598>