

Important Information about your Drinking Water

April 9, 2024, Prairie Du Chien collected water samples of the Waterworks' drinking water and tested them for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). They found some PFAS compounds in WELL No. 2 that were present at levels above Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) health advisory levels. PFAS levels in the other wells were not at levels of health concern. PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals that have been used in many products since the 1950s.

At this time, the risk to health is low. Prairie Du Chien is not in violation of any drinking water standards or regulations and has proactively taken actions to protect the health of its customers. On 4/17/24 the Prairie du Chien Waterworks shut off WELL #2, the Prairie du Chien Waterworks is only using water from wells with levels below DHS health Advisory/Hazard Index guidance levels. **People and businesses can continue to use the water from Prairie Du Chien Waterworks.**

What is being done to correct the issue?

In addition to taking Well No. 2 offline, the water department will continue to monitor and sample the remaining wells to DNR requirements.

What are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of human-made chemicals that are resistant to heat, water, and oil. These chemicals have been used for decades in many industrial applications and consumer products such as carpeting, waterproof clothing, upholstery, food paper wrappings, personal care products, fire-fighting foams, and metal plating. PFAS have been found at low levels both in the environment and in blood samples of the general U.S. population.

How people be exposed to PFAS and why are they harmful?

The main way that people are exposed PFAS is by drinking water or eating food containing them. PFAS chemicals do not easily absorb into the skin so contact with water that contains PFAS poses a very low health risk.

A large number of studies in people have examined possible relationships between levels of PFAS in blood and harmful health effects in people. However, most of these studies analyzed only a small number of chemicals, and not all PFAS have the same health effects. This research suggests that high levels of certain PFAS may increase cholesterol levels, decrease how well the body responds to vaccines, and reduce fertility in women. Some other studies have indicated that high levels of certain PFAS may increase the risk of thyroid disease, increase the risk of serious conditions like high blood pressure or pre-eclampsia in pregnant women, and lower infant birth weights.

How does PFAS get into drinking water?

PFAS can get into drinking water when products containing them are used or spilled onto the ground or into lakes and rivers as well as from manufacturing and disposal. PFAS move easily through the ground, getting into groundwater that is used for some water supplies or for private drinking water wells. When spilled into lakes or rivers used as sources of drinking water, they can get into drinking water supplies. PFAS in the air can also end up in rivers and lakes used for drinking water.

If you have questions regarding the UTILITY drinking water or the testing, please contact: Larry Gates, Utility Director at 608-326-6406 x20

GENERAL PFAS QUESTIONS --- PLEASE SEE THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES WEBSITE: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Contaminants/PFAS.html>

HEALTH RELATED QUESTIONS---DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES: Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health at dhsenvhealth@wi.gov or 608-266-1120. More information about PFAS and health risk can be found on the Wisconsin DHS website at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm>.

OPERATION OF THE LOCAL WATER UTILITY---]

Larry Gates – Utility Director

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City – Prairie du Chien

State -WI

I certify that the information and statements contained in this public notice are true and correct and have been provided to consumers in accordance with the delivery, content, format, and deadline requirements in Subchapter VII of ch. NR 809, Wis. Adm. Code.

X

Larry Gates
Signature

4/25/24
Date

** Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail