

CITY OF GREEN LAKE WATER UTILITY CUSTOMERS

Important Information about your Drinking Water

On September 6, the City of Green Lake collected water samples of the City's drinking water sources and tested them for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Some PFAS compounds were present in Well 2 at levels above Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) health advisory levels and at levels above DHS's hazard index guidance. No PFAS were detected in Well 1.

At this time, the risk to health is low. The City of Green Lake is not in violation of any drinking water standards or regulations and has proactively taken actions to protect the health of its customers. On October 6, 2023, City staff made modifications to prevent Well 2 from running and is only using water from Well 1, which had no detections of PFAS. **People and businesses can continue to use the water from Green Lake Waterworks.**

What is being done to correct the issue?

In addition to shutting off Well 2, the City of Green Lake has taken well #2 offline until a solution(s) are found to mitigate the issue and an action plan is in place.

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 are people exposed to PFAS and why are they harmful?

The main way that people are exposed to PFAS is by drinking water or eating food containing them; household water repellent products used on carpets, upholstery, clothing and other fabrics, cleaning products, non-stick cookware, paints, varnishes, and sealants; personal care products like shampoo, dental floss and cosmetics; anything that uses "forever" chemicals. 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 City of Green Lake's drinking water or testing, please contact: Public Works Director Jason Carley, 920-294-0409, or Green Lake City Hall, 534 Mill Street, Green Lake, WI; phone 920-294-6912.

If you have general questions related to PFAS, please see the Department of Natural Resources website at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Contaminants/PFAS.html>

Health related questions can be answered by the 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>.

* 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.

Publish: 11/9/2023

City of Green Lake Water Utility