



**Department of Public Works
Water & Sewer Utility**

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Important Information About Your Drinking Water Entry Point 500 & Well 8 *Drinking Water Advisory*

On July 12, 2023, the City of Pewaukee Water & Sewer Utility (Utility) collected water samples from the City's drinking water Entry Point 500 (EP 500) and tested for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are a group of human-made chemicals that have been used in many products since the 1950's. On August 14, 2023, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) notified the Utility that PFAS levels found at EP 500 are above the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) health advisory levels. The EP 500 site blends water from two wells, deep Well #11 and shallow Well #12. This Health Advisory is in addition to the notice that was sent several weeks ago about PFAS found at Well #8. Well #8 was shut down on June 21, 2023.

At this time, PFAS levels in the other 9 wells in the City's water system are either not detected or do not exceed the current health advisory level.

Potential health risks of PFAS and Consumption Advisory

Long term exposure to high levels of the PFAS may increase cholesterol levels, reduce antibody levels, and reduce a woman's fertility. **DHS recommends people limit their intake of PFAS compounds. One way people can reduce additional exposure to PFAS is by limiting their consumption of City of Pewaukee drinking water.**

People can consider alternative water sources such as:

- Other sources of water that have been tested for PFAS and do not have levels above recommended standards.
- Filtered water from a pitcher, sink or whole-house filter system with certified filter technology. A granular activated carbon (GAC) filter that meets ANSI/NSF Standard 53, or a reverse osmosis (RO) filter that includes a GAC component that can filter out PFAS. (These standard numbers or component description will be printed on the filter and/or packaging.) **Boiling water does not remove PFAS.**

What is being done to correct the problem?

The City of Pewaukee is not in violation of any current federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) drinking water standards or regulations at this time. The City has taken action to proactively notify you of the potential impact to protect the health of our customers.

The City of Pewaukee Utility is facing a tough challenge with trying to protect our customers from this newly identified PFAS contamination at two sites **and** satisfying our daily customer water demand, as well as providing fire protection to our community. We must be prepared to provide the quantity of water necessary to meet the daily needs of our customers during the next three to four years as we design and build PFAS removal equipment at each site.

Though initially the City felt we could remove Well #8 from service until a treatment system could be installed, we no longer feel this is feasible with the additional contamination at EP 500. The City will begin the use of Well #8 on September 1, 2023. **The City of Pewaukee will continue to use the water from Well #8 and Entry Point 500 to meet the water demand needs for our municipal water customers.**

What are perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)?

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances 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 cookware; and items for example that are stain resistant, water repellent, non-stick and fire resistant/retardant. PFAS have been found at low levels both in the environment and in blood samples of the general U.S. population.

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

PFAS are common in our environment. There is no easy way to completely avoid them. People are mainly exposed to PFAS 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.

Scientists are still learning about the health effects that different PFAS can have on the body. Studies have found possible relationships between levels of PFAS in blood and harmful health effects in people. However, most of these studies have analyzed only a small number of chemicals. Not all PFAS have the same health effects. 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 on the ground as well as manufacturing and disposal of products. PFAS move easily through the ground by seeping into the groundwater table that is used to supply drinking water for municipalities and private home wells. PFAS can also spill or seep into lakes, rivers and streams which may contaminate surface water that may supply water to other municipalities. Airborne PFAS may also contaminate rivers and lakes used for drinking water.

If you have questions regarding the City of Pewaukee drinking water or the testing, please contact Jane Mueller, Utility Manager at (262) 691-0804.

For general PFAS questions, please visit the Department of Natural Resources website at: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Contaminants/PFAS.html>

For health-related questions, please contact the Department of Health Services: Email the Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health at: dhsenvhealth@wi.gov or call (608) 266-1120. More information about PFAS and health risks can be found on the Wisconsin DHS website at: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm>.

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 *Jane E Mueller, Utility Manager*

9/8/2023