



City of Adams
Department of Public Works
101 N. Juneau Street
Adams, WI 53910
Jason Kirslenohr, Street Superintendent
Office (608) 472-6515

May 16, 2022

RE: City of Adams Public Works Department Voluntary PFAS Sampling / Testing Results and Drinking Water Advisory

Dear Water Customer:

In order to be proactive and protective of the citizens of the City of Adams health, we made the decision to sample for PFAS compounds in our drinking water voluntarily.

On March 13, 2022, the City of Adams Public Works Department completed a voluntary round of sampling for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). This notice is to inform you of the results and the current and next steps that the utility will be taking.

The City Public Works Department received the test results in the afternoon of May 4, 2022. Based on the water sampling results the utility consulted with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to discuss the test results and start the process of an appropriate action plan.

PFAS compounds were detected in Well #4 at levels below all individual health advisory levels but are present at levels above Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) hazard index guidance. The hazard index is a way of assessing the potential health impacts associated with mixtures of PFAS.

On May 11, 2022 Well #4 was taken offline. The City of Adams will continue to provide safe drinking water to its customers from Well #5 that has had NO PFAS detection through the same sampling and testing procedures.

The risk to human health is believed to be low at this time. The City of Adams is not in violation of any drinking water standards of regulation and has proactively taken action to protect the health of its customers. However, if you are concerned about your PFAS exposure, you can use an alternative water source for drinking, making beverages, infant formula, and making foods that use a lot of water such as like flavored gelatin or rice.

Note that boiling water does not remove PFAS.

We continue to work with the DNR and have completed follow up sampling at Well #4 on May 9, 2022 and should see the results in 3-4 weeks. Well #4 will remain offline until we receive and evaluate the follow up results. The DNR, DHS and City of Adams Public Works Department are not recommending you change the way you use your water at this time.

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.

The City of Adams Public Works Department is committed to providing our consumers with quality drinking water. As your water supplier, we will continue to work closely with the DNR to maintain the quality of your water. If you have questions about this notice, please contact the City of Adams at 608-472-6515. If you have health-related question, please contact Cody Przybylski, Adams Count Public Health Officer at 608-339-4505.

A full list of the sampling results, including the individual PFAS compounds, the reported concentrations and DHS health advisory levels, can be found at <https://cityofadamswi.org/>.

Specific health information regarding PFAS compounds with health advisory recommendations in WI can be found here:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/gws-cycle10.htm>

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/gws-cycle11.htm>

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm>

[Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) | US EPA](#)

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Contaminants/PFAS.html>

Sincerely,



Jason Kirsenlohr
Street Superintendent