

## PFAS update

From MDH-Environmental Health

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/hazardous/topics/pfcs/current.html>

MDH staff continue to review the studies and methods used by EPA in its 2016 health advisory values for PFOA and PFOS to determine whether our own health-based values for these chemicals need to be lowered and if so, what the values should be. This review is expected to be completed in May-June 2017 and community meetings will be held in Cottage Grove and Lake Elmo.

In the meantime, the review was far enough along to tell us that it was prudent to notify the public now, rather than at the end of our scientific review, in order to begin taking steps to help affected residents in the Twin Cities East Metro area reduce unnecessary exposures to these PFCs through drinking water.

Since August 2016, MDH and MPCA have been working to identify all drinking water wells, public and private, that may exceed levels of health concern. Sampling efforts were focused in areas identified as likely to exceed the new EPA health advisory values, based on previous sample data and our understanding of the groundwater in Washington County.

Sample results are compared to the EPA health advisory values for PFOS and PFOA as well as MDH Health Risk Limits for PFBA and PFBS. MDH uses the EPA health advisory value for PFOS as an interim surrogate value for PFHxS. MDH also evaluates mixtures of PFCs in water using an additivity calculation that results in a health index value. Drinking water advisories are issued for any well where any PFC exceeds an individual health based value or the mixture of PFCs exceeds the health index value. When drinking water advisories are issued for private (i.e., residential) wells, the state provides bottled water until the home can be connected to city water or a water treatment system can be installed.

Work completed as of March 2017 includes:

### Private Wells

- Over 520 private wells have been sampled (link to map at web site above), primarily in portions of Lake Elmo, West Lakeland Township, Cottage Grove, and Grey Cloud Island Township.
- Over 200 new drinking water advisories (link to map at web site above) have been issued.
- Approximately 150 additional wells have been identified for sampling in spring 2017. More wells will be added as needed, based on sample results.
- If a well is selected to be sampled, MDH will contact the well owner by mail with more information and to get their permission.
- Sampling will continue until the areas that exceed levels of health concern have been defined.
- MPCA has an interactive version of the map which you can use to locate your address and determine if you are within an area of concern.

### City Wells

- MDH continues to monitor water quality at all the affected communities to ensure that the finished drinking water meets the new EPA health advisory values and combined PFCs do not exceed the health index value.
- PFC concentrations in most city wells have remained stable or decreased slightly over time.



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#### Other Public Wells

- MDH is also sampling non-community, public wells (businesses, schools, churches, etc.) and providing drinking water advice as needed.

#### Surface Water

- Sampling detected PFCs above the health based drinking water values in the stormwater drainage system. The system helps to control flooding in the Lake Elmo area.
- Sampling near this drainage system indicates that PFC-contaminated water has infiltrated from the surface water to groundwater and affected nearby wells, many of which exceed EPA and MDH health based values.
- Most of the private well sampling in spring 2017 will focus on defining the extent of groundwater contamination along the course of the stormwater drainage system.
- MDH and MPCA plan to do additional surface water sampling in 2017.