

# Mosinee Water Utility East System

## Drinking Water Advisory

On October 17, 2022 the Mosinee Water Utility voluntarily collected water samples from the **Mosinee East** system drinking water and tested them for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals that have been used in many products since the 1950s. PFAS compounds in blended water from Wells 1 and 6 were present at levels above health-based standards recommended by the WI Department of Health Services (DHS). The Wisconsin DHS standard is 20 parts per trillion (ppt). Our test result was 27.6 ppt. Sample results are available upon request. Although the test results were above the Wisconsin DHS Health standard of 20 ppt they were below the EPA's health advisory limit of 70 ppt.

### **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. **Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) recommends people limit their intake of PFAS compounds. People can reduce exposure to PFAS by limiting their consumption of Mosinee East System 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 a certified filter technology. A granular activated carbon (GAC) filter that meets ANSI/NSF Standard 53 or a reverse osmosis (RO) filter with an included GAC component can filter out PFAS. These numbers will be printed on the filter and/or packaging. More information about filtering out PFAS from drinking water is available here: [Reducing PFAS in Your Drinking Water](#). **Boiling water does not remove PFAS.**

### **What is being done to correct the problem?**

The Mosinee East System is not in violation of any federal or state drinking water standards or regulations and has taken actions proactively to inform and protect the health of its customers. We are further reducing the amount of water pumped from the well with the highest concentration of PFAS and blending that water with water that is well below the health standard in an attempt to provide water that is below the current DHS health standard of 20 ppt. The City of Mosinee has also hired a consultant to evaluate operations of the east wellfield to determine what long-term actions may be necessary to reduce the PFAS content of the drinking water.

### **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 can 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 Mosinee East Water system drinking water or the testing, please contact: Kevin Breit, Director of Public Works by email at [publicworks@mosinee.wi.us](mailto:publicworks@mosinee.wi.us) or phone at 715-693-3840.**

**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](mailto: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 CITY WATER UTILITY**

*Name of responsible Person* – Kevin Breit *Area Code-Telephone Number* 715-693-3840

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*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 Kevin Breit

Signature

December 1, 2022

Date