

Mosinee Water Utility East System

Drinking Water Advisory

On February 11, 2025 the Mosinee East water system collected water samples of their drinking water and tested them for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are a group of human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1950s. PFAS compounds in the Mosinee East drinking water are above the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' recommended health advisory levels and are present at levels above Wisconsin Department of Health Services' (DHS) hazard index guidance at Entry Point 1. The hazard index is a way of assessing the potential health impacts associated with mixtures of PFAS. The levels found were below the Department of Natural Resources Maximum Contaminant Level. The sampling results are available here:

<https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/dwsportalpub/Sample/View/5662452>.

DHS recommends that people limit their intake of PFAS compounds. People can reduce exposure to PFAS by limiting their consumption of Mosinee East 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:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p03012.pdf>

- **Boiling water does not remove PFAS.**

Potential Health Risks of PFAS

Long term exposure to high levels of the PFAS may increase cholesterol levels, reduce antibody levels, and reduce a woman's fertility.

PFAS are frequently found together. While some PFAS can affect health in a similar way, they are not equally harmful. For this reason, DHS uses a hazard index approach to assess the potential for health impacts from mixtures of PFAS. When the hazard index is too high, DHS recommends people take action to reduce their risk of health effects. [DHS's webpage on PFAS](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm)

(<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm>) has more information about the hazard index, including a video describing what it is and how it is used to protect public health.

What is being done to correct the problem?

The Mosinee East water system is not in violation of any drinking water standards or regulations and has taken actions proactively to 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. The City is currently evaluating these options for treatment.

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. 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 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.

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 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 testing, please contact: Paul Seefeldt, Director of Public Works by email at 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 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 Paul Seefeldt Area Code Telephone Number 715-693-3840

Street Address 225 Main Street City Mosinee State WI Zip 54455

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 Paul Seefeldt
Signature

March 3, 2025
Date