

Dear Water System Customer,

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) recently tested our water system for compounds known as Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) as part of a statewide investigation of community water supplies. PFAS are a group of thousands of manmade substances that have been produced in the United States since the 1940s and utilized for a variety of applications ranging from water and stain-proofing to firefighting. Some PFAS have been phased out of production due to environmental and human health concerns, yet they persist in the environment and may contaminate surface and ground waters.

Neither the Illinois EPA nor the U.S. EPA have yet developed enforceable drinking water standards for PFAS. In the interim, Illinois EPA has developed health-based guidance levels for the small number of PFAS for which there is appropriate information to do so. The health-based guidance levels are intended to be protective of all people consuming the water over a lifetime of exposure. It is important to understand that health-based guidance levels are not regulatory limits for drinking water. Rather, the health-based guidance levels are benchmarks against which sampling results are compared to determine if additional investigation or other response action is necessary.

Illinois EPA testing has determined that one or more PFAS were detected in our water system at values greater than or equal to the Illinois EPA health-based guidance levels, as provided in the table below.

<b>PFAS Analyte</b>	<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Health-Based Guidance Level (ng/L)</b>	<b>Analytical Results (ng/L)</b>
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid	PFBS	2,100	2.5
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid	PFHxS	140	ND
Perfluorononanoic acid	PFNA	21	ND
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid	PFOS	14	2.4 / 2.6
Perfluorooctanoic acid	PFOA	2	2.4
Perfluorohexanoic acid	PFHxA	560,000	4.2 / 3.7
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid	HFPO-DA	560	ND

Our water may contain other PFAS at concentrations greater than or equal to the lowest concentration the laboratory can reliably detect, known as the minimum reporting level. However, neither the Illinois EPA nor the U.S. EPA currently have health-based guidance levels for these additional compounds. Results can also be found on the PFAS Investigation Network Interactive Map webpage: <https://illinois-epa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/d304b513b53941c4bc1be2c2730e75cf>.

PFAS are present in many consumer goods, including food packaging and personal care products, and scientists have found values of PFAS in blood of nearly all individuals tested. Exposure to high levels of PFAS may cause adverse health effects such as increased cholesterol levels, increased risk for thyroid disease, low infant birth weights, reduced response to vaccines, pregnancy-induced hypertension and increased risk of liver and kidney cancer as seen in studies of laboratory animals. Exposure to PFAS above the recommended health-based guidance levels does not necessarily mean that a person will get sick or an adverse health effect will occur. Health-based guidance levels are conservative estimates. The possible health effects from PFAS are dependent on how much a person is exposed to and how long

they are exposed to it. Exposure to PFAS above recommended health-based guidance levels for periods of time may mean that a person is at a greater risk of experiencing these adverse effects.

The City of Canton Illinois has taken measures to respond to the results of this testing. As a proactive measure(s) to protect our drinking water supply, the City of Canton is working to:

- continue to monitor PFAS values through quarterly sampling
- identify which water source intake/well is affected
- isolate the affected water source intake to reduce levels

Based on these initial results, Canton will perform additional sampling beginning 3/25/2022 and will keep the community updated and informed.

Additional information regarding PFAS, the statewide PFAS investigation network, and the impact to public health can be found in the attached fact sheet as well as on the Illinois EPA PFAS webpage: <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/water-quality/pfas/Pages/default.aspx>.

The confirmed sampling results for Canton are also available on Illinois EPA's Drinking Water Watch system at <http://water.epa.state.il.us/dww/index.jsp>.

If you have questions, please contact:

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