



City of Eau Claire Finds PFAS in City Wells

Media inquiries can be directed to:

City of Eau Claire Public Information Officer Tess Morgan: 715-839-4902

Eau Claire, WI - July 12, 2021

The City of Eau Claire regularly conducts tests of the city's municipal water supply for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, better known as PFAS as a part of its operations. Test results in June 2020 and April 2021 detected small levels of PFAS in the City's water supply below recommended enforcement standards under current consideration by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources ("DNR").

This month additional voluntary tests were conducted that showed four City Wells exceeded newly recommended guidance put forth last month by the Wisconsin DNR and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services ("DHS"). These four wells were immediately shut off. The remaining 12 wells have either no PFAS or detection numbers below recommended safety limits.

"We have taken swift action to protect the public's health and safety by immediately shutting down wells that had PFAS levels above newly recommended standards," said Dave Solberg, Interim City Manager. "Because the wells were immediately shut down, Eau Claire residents do not need to stop drinking or using water from the city's water supply."

"The City will continue to monitor all of its wells for PFAS and continue to work with the DNR and DHS to both keep our drinking water safe and our customers informed," said Lane Berg, Utilities Manager. "We will also work with the DNR to identify the source of the PFAS affecting the four City wells and ensure other wells or any new wells are not affected by PFAS now or in the future."

The City of Eau Claire is investigating ways to mitigate the concentration of PFAS in the wells, and initiated testing every two weeks and will take action as needed. These test results will be shared publicly as soon as sample results are available at EauClaireWI.gov/government/our-divisions/utilities/PFAS-Information. This page will continue to be updated as information becomes available.



While Eau Claire residents do not need to stop drinking or using the city's water because the risk is low, any resident who is concerned about their PFAS exposure can decrease their potential exposure by using an alternative water source such as purified or filtered bottled water for drinking and cooking.

Resources and additional information:

- [DNR PFAS webpage](#)
- [City of Eau Claire PFAS Information page](#)
- [DHS PFAS webpage](#)
- [DHS groundwater recommendations](#)
- [DHS Reducing PFAS in Your Drinking Water brochure](#)

The Wisconsin DNR continues to seek public input on numerous rulemaking efforts related to PFAS. People interested in providing input on proposed DNR regulations related to PFAS are encouraged to visit the DNR's webpage for a schedule of opportunities for public input.

Individuals may leave questions at the PFAS Information line at 715-839-6002. Messages will be monitored and responded to in a timely manner Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m – 5:00 p.m.

MEDIA NOTE: City of Eau Claire Utilities Manager Lane Berg, Water Plant Supervisor Mark Nelson, Utilities Chemist Tyler Fadness, Eau Claire City-County Health Department Director Lieske Giese, Deputy City Attorney Doug Hoffer, Interim City Manager Dave Solberg, along with Kyle Burton from the Wisconsin DNR, and Roy Irving from Wisconsin Health Services will be available for questions between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Meeting information

Event Address for Attendees:

<https://eauclairewi.webex.com/eauclairewi/onstage/g.php?MTID=e16b9bd29dbd4358b02ecd9d64c8e15ba>

Listen Only Conference: United States Toll +1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 146 761 2096

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