



**October 12, 2021**

## **PFAS – Three-month Update**

On July 12, 2021 the City of Eau Claire announced the detection of small levels of PFAS in the City's water supply, which were below recommended enforcement standards under consideration by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

In the three months that have followed, regular testing and monitoring of PFAS levels has continued. Results are posted on the PFAS Information page of the City's website. The City of Eau Claire entered into an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the DNR on August 5, and the City is working closely with the DNR on long- and short-term solutions, including a piping plan that allows us to discharge some groundwater to our lagoons to prevent a plume spread. Pumping began on September 28 and has yielded very good results; we saw decreased levels of PFAS in wells 9, 14, and 24. These are three of the wells we are working to protect from PFAS migration. More importantly, our Entry Point sample also showed a reduction from 0.328 ppt to 0.204 ppt.

Currently, Gannett Fleming is working on the groundwater modeling project for us, and we look forward to seeing those results. Some of the items that this will identify are: the limits of the PFAS plume, how long we will be dealing with it, what happens when we run different well combinations, true groundwater flows, etc. We will then use this data to determine our response, whether it be continuing to run wells to waste, installing treatment systems, drilling new wells or other possibilities not yet considered.

There have been no decisions made regarding any needed treatment or other City response beyond the current voluntary measures. Monitoring and data gathering will continue to ensure both that water supplied to the public remains compliant with all safe drinking water standards as well as below Recommended Enforcement Standards for PFAS.

The City has ample water supply from its active wells and the Water Utility has continued to deliver water to our residents and consumers satisfying all volume needs while meeting all federal and state safe drinking standards as well as all DNR proposed Recommended Enforcement Standards for PFAS and related chemicals.

It is very important to note that we have never exceeded Recommended Enforcement Standards, proposed by the DNR, for our Entry Point sample. The Entry Point is at the location that water leaves our Water Plant for consumption by our customers. Although some wells did see an increase in PFAS levels we have enough lower level wells to keep up with demand and we did not have to issue any type of watering ban.

Enforcement actions by the DNR are matters for the State of Wisconsin and we will not comment on them. We are not aware of the status of those inquiries but are hopeful DNR will share data with the



City as it is appropriate to inform our local voluntary response that remains focused on continued delivery of safe water.

There are no current budgetary capital requests related to the City's voluntary response to the detection of low levels of PFAS; however, the Water Utility has incurred operational costs from additional testing and the studies now underway. The City will continue to closely monitor and evaluate the data and timely recommend such capital improvements to the water plant to continue to meet all our obligations to the public to supply an adequate amount of safe water to our community.

Residents with questions or concerns about PFAS can be referred to [EauClaireWI.gov/PFAS](http://EauClaireWI.gov/PFAS) or to the PFAS Information line 715-839-6002.