



April 13, 2022

The City of Eau Claire initially sampled our drinking water for PFAS in June of 2020 and again in April of 2021 in a proactive measure to see what, if any, our levels are. The 2021 sample indicated a combined level of PFOA and PFOS of 17 parts per trillion (ppt), below the proposed DNR Recommended Enforcement Standard of 20 ppt. Even though we were below the standard we took action to lower our levels as much as possible in the name of public health. Some of the measures that we have taken are:

- Piping in our well field to allow us to discharge water from our higher level wells into our absorption ponds
- Tree removal and shaping of the absorption ponds to bring them into DNR compliance and to promote water percolation
- Dumping key well water into the ponds to block the migration of PFAS and to keep it isolated to those wells
- Worked with a consultant to model groundwater flows so that we can use the data to make operational decisions
- Currently working with the same consultant to select locations to drill new wells in areas not impacted by PFAS
- Investigating treatment methods that remove PFAS from the water

These efforts and more have helped our situation as our latest sampling results showed a combined total for PFOA and PFOS of 6 ppt. Recently the NR Board recommended changing the standard from 20 ppt to 70 ppt, which puts them in line with the US EPA. None of the standards have been adopted into law yet so we are fully aware that they may change in the future so we remain diligent in our commitment to producing the safest drinking water possible. Many projects will follow once we have determined our best next steps.

Lane Berg

Utilities Manager – City of Eau Claire