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LCWSA EVALUATING NEW PFOA, PFOS HEALTH ADVISORY LEVELS

Recently, The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an updated health advisory lowering the lifetime exposure levels of perfluoro octane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluoro octanoic acid (PFOA) in drinking water. LCWSA is committed to protecting public health and ensuring our drinking water is safe, high-quality, and meets all the regulatory standards.

While we are making customers aware of this change to the health advisory, it is essential to remember that this is only an advisory and is not a regulation or law. The advisory was issued on an interim basis until the release of permanent requirements regarding these chemicals and will help the EPA decide on future enforceable limits. To date, the EPA has also acknowledged that current testing technology **cannot** detect the presence of PFOA or PFOS at the level in the new advisory.

PFOS and PFOA are synthetic chemicals manufactured and used by many industries since the 1940s. They are used in many applications because of their unique physical properties, such as resistance to high and low temperatures, resistance to degradation, and nonstick characteristics. These chemicals have been detected worldwide in the air, soil, and water. Due to their widespread use and persistence in the environment, most people in the United States have been exposed to these chemicals.

Recent testing of LCWSAs' drinking water shows results above the EPA's new advisory levels but below those added for Gen X chemicals (hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid and its ammonium salt) and perfluoro butane sulfonic acid and its potassium salt (PFBS).

<u>Chemical</u>	<u>Advisory</u>	<u>May 2022 Elk</u>	<u>March 2022 Elk</u>	<u>March 2022 Turner</u>
PFOA	.004 ppt	ND	ND	4.2 ppt
PFOS	.02 ppt	3.58 ppt	ND	7.1ppt
Gen X	10 ppt	ND	ND	ND
PFBS	2,000 ppt	1.12 ppt	ND	8.7ppt

LCWSA drinking water has been and continues to be safe to drink and for all other household uses. The staff at LCWSA will continue to test for these and any other contaminants as required by ADEM. Staff is diligently looking at this advisory and what the future of drinking water could mean for the utility.

For Additional information

www.epa.gov/pfas

www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos

<https://awwa.org/AWWA-articles/awwa-statement-on-epa-pfas-health-advisories>