

GADSDEN WATER WORKS AND SEWER BOARD  
PWSID # AL0000577

ATTN: Chad Hare

Today the US Environmental Protection Agency has issued new lifetime health advisories for four Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). New interim health advisories have been issued for Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS). Final health advisories have been issued for Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acid and its Ammonium Salt (also known as “GenX Chemicals”) and Perfluorobutane Sulfonate (PFBS). These advisory levels are:

<b>Chemical</b>	<b>Lifetime Health Advisory Level/Value (parts per trillion or ppt)</b>
PFOA	0.004 (Interim)
PFOS	0.02 (Interim)
GenX Chemicals	10 (Final)
PFBS	2,000 (Final)

Recent statewide sampling of finished water has not indicated any values above the health advisories for GenX Chemicals or PFBS. However, the new levels for PFOA and PFOS are well below the detectible limits for current EPA laboratory methods. Therefore, if your system has had a detection for either PFOA or PFOS in finished water, or purchases water from a system that has had a detection, the health advisories may necessitate additional actions from you and should be evaluated thoroughly.

In its release today, EPA recommends that water systems with detections of PFOA and/or PFOS notify their customers of the presence of these chemicals in drinking water (this would include other systems that you provide water to). We recommend placing a notification in your next bill, on your website, and/or issuing a public notice. Any detections of PFAS should also be listed in your consumer confidence report. If PFOA or PFOS have been detected in your water, your system may consider switching sources or installing treatment as long-term solutions. Special funding is available from the Department’s Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for these long-term solutions. Contact the SRF Section at [srf@adem.alabama.gov](mailto:srf@adem.alabama.gov) for more information.

The Drinking Water Branch will be requiring routine monitoring for PFAS for the affected systems. Details, including schedules and allowable methods, will be sent to affected systems in the coming weeks.

Please also note that while we will be requiring systems with detections of PFOA or PFOS to conduct monitoring, these health advisories are not enforceable by the Department or

EPA. Detections of PFOA or PFOS are not violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Later this year, however, EPA plans to release draft Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for these two contaminants. The health advisories will, in part, inform their decision-making on setting these enforceable limits.

The new health advisories and supporting materials are available on EPA's PFAS page at <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/drinking-water-health-advisories-has#published>. Should you have further questions about these actions, please visit EPA's website or you may contact the Drinking Water Branch at (334) 271-7773.