

CONSUMER DRINKING WATER NOTICE

THE WATER WORKS & SEWER BOARD OF THE CITY OF GADSDEN

On June 15, 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued new lifetime health advisories for four (4) PFAS compounds: PFOA, PFOS, PFBS, and GenX chemicals. In 2016, the lifetime health advisories for PFOA and PFOS were set at 70 parts-per-trillion (ppt). The new interim lifetime health advisories for these chemicals, set the limits at 0.004 ppt for PFOA and 0.02 ppt for PFOS.

Gadsden Water has routinely sampled its raw water (source water before treatment) and its finished water (after treatment) since 2016 for PFAS chemicals. All these sample results can be found on our website (www.gadsdenwater.org).

Conventional water treatment does not remove these chemicals, so in December 2018, Gadsden Water implemented granular activated carbon (GAC) to its treatment process. Since GAC became operational, Gadsden Water has routinely been below the health advisories issued in 2016. However, the drinking water produced today is above the newly established limits set by the EPA.

PFAS Chemical	2016 Advisory	2022 Advisory	Gadsden Water Average
PFOA	70 ppt	.004 ppt	14 ppt
PFOS	70 ppt	.02 ppt	19 ppt
GenX	NA	10 ppt	NA
PFBS	NA	2,000 ppt	75 ppt

Gadsden Water will continue routine monitoring for these compounds. All results can be found on our website. We are examining available options to address PFAS in the drinking water supply and will keep you informed.

EPA recommends that public water systems that find PFOA or PFOS in their drinking water take steps to inform customers, undertake additional sampling to assess the level, scope, and source of contamination, and examine steps to limit exposure. While water systems may not be able to eliminate all risks from PFOA and PFOS, they can successfully reduce those risks.

In following EPA recommendations, Gadsden Water has responded by...

Customer Notification

- Gadsden Water has shared every PFAS monitoring report received on our website dating back to 2016. EPA information about PFAS and their public health concerns have also been posted to the website. Gadsden Water has also shared information on PFAS with its customers through the annual Consumer Confidence Report.

Undertake additional sampling...

- Gadsden Water has sampled its raw (source) water and finished (treated) water for PFAS since 2016. Monthly monitoring continues

today. Gadsden Water's average concentrations for PFOA, PFOS, and PFBS, since GAC installation, can be seen in the above chart. Monitoring has also been performed upstream of our raw water intake. This sampling has revealed the source of PFAS in our source water originates upstream across the state line into Georgia.

Examine steps to limit exposure

- Gadsden Water has not only examined steps to limit exposure to PFOA and PFOS, but has installed granular-activated carbon (GAC) tanks to reduce PFOA and PFOS in our drinking water. These GAC vessels have been in operation since December 2018.
- Another important step taken by the Gadsden Water Works and Sewer Board included filing a lawsuit in September 2016 against those companies/industries responsible for PFAS being present in the Coosa River (Gadsden Water's source water). Gadsden Water's desire is for those responsible for the PFAS contamination to be accountable for the associated costs required for Gadsden Water to be able to provide PFAS-free water to its customers.

For information on PFOS, PFOA, PFBS, GenX chemicals and other PFAS, including possible health outcomes, you may visit these websites:

- Raw (source) and finished (treated) water PFAS sample results, and general information about Gadsden Water's PFAS response: www.gadsdenwater.org
- Basic information, EPA actions to address PFAS, and links to informational resources: www.epa.gov/pfas
- Health information, exposure, and links to additional resources for PFAS in drinking water: www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos