



## Consumer Outreach Regarding PFAS Chemicals in Public Drinking Water

PFAS chemicals are a group of widely used per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances which degrade very slowly over time. Scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS in the environment may be linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals. Because of their widespread use and persistence in the environment, PFAS are found in water, air, fish, and soil at locations across the nation and globe.

In 2020 the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) funded a PFAS data collection for public water systems. Consolidated Mutual Water Company (CMWC) participated in the data collection. The results of that effort showed a perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) concentration of 1.10 parts per trillion (ppt) and a perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) concentration of 1.50 ppt in the drinking water treated by the Maple Grove WTP. The certified laboratory reporting these values indicated the results are below the method detection limit and are approximate. These chemicals were detected in larger concentrations in the untreated source water supplying the plant (Maple Grove Reservoir). At the time this was well below the EPA Health Advisory (HA) for these chemicals. In June 2022, the EPA announced interim updated lifetime drinking water HAs for these chemicals of .02 ppt (PFOS) and 0.004 ppt (PFOA).

Chemical	2022 EPA HA	EPA MRL	Maple Grove Reservoir	MGWTP
PFOA	0.004 ppt	4.0 ppt	10 ppt	1.10 ppt
PFOS	0.02 ppt	4.0 ppt	8.50 ppt	1.50 ppt

- EPA MRL. The USEPA established minimum reporting level for UCMR-5 PFAS sampling. This is the minimum quantitation level that, with 95 percent confidence, can be achieved by capable analysts at 75 percent or more of the laboratories using a specified analytical method (recognizing that individual laboratories may be able to measure at lower levels).
- Maple Grove Reservoir provides source water to Maple Grove Water Treatment Plant.
- MGWTP. Maple Grove Water Treatment Plant, a low-pressure ultrafiltration membrane drinking water treatment plant.

More information about PFAS chemicals is available at these EPA sites.

[USEPA PFAS Website](#)

[Questions and Answers: Drinking Water Health Advisories for PFOA, PFOS, GenX Chemicals and PFBS | US EPA](#)

[Drinking Water Health Advisories for PFAS Fact Sheet for Communities - June 2022 \(epa.gov\)](#)

## FAQ

**What is CMC doing to reduce the levels of those types of PFAS (and Total PFAS) to EPA's acceptable levels?**

CMWC is following USEPA recommendations. These include,

- additional sampling to assess the level, scope, and localized source of contamination to inform the next steps,



- work with CDPH&E to determine if there will be state requirements or guidance on concentrations of PFAS,
- provide consumers with information about the levels of PFAS in their drinking water,
- investigating technologies such as granular activated carbon, ion exchange or high-pressure membranes that may remove more PFAS,
- reviewing source water protection plans to see if additional measures can prevent PFAS chemicals from entering the MGWTP's untreated water supply.

**Has there been any more testing done for these contaminants and is Consolidated doing anything to reduce these levels?**

In 2020, CMWC contracted Eurofins Eaton Analytical (EEA) to measure PFAS chemicals in the MGWTP effluent. EEA is a PFAS-certified laboratory (certification IN00035). The results of this testing did not reveal any PFOS or PFOA above a minimum reporting level of 2.0 ppt. The test did show the presence of Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS) at 2.4 ppt. The USEPA final lifetime drinking water HA for PFBS is 2000 ppt.

CMWC is currently coordinating with CDPHE to participate in additional PFAS testing this year.

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that once every five years USEPA issue a list of unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems (PWSs). The fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5) was published on December 27, 2021 and is focused on PFAS chemicals. UCMR 5 requires sample collection for chemical contaminants between 2023 and 2025 using analytical methods developed by EPA and consensus organizations. This action provides EPA and other interested parties with scientifically valid data on the national occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water. CMWC is scheduled to begin collecting UCMR-5 PFAS samples in April 2023. Samples will be collected every three months through January 2024.