

Hello,

Recently, we sent you a postcard about per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as PFAS, and to inform you about upcoming testing for PFAS. This notice is being provided to inform about the results of those tests.

PFAS Detection

Drinking water samples collected from Vancouver Water System (ID#91200) sources included detections of the following per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that were above a State Action Level (SAL) as determined by the Washington State Department of Health.

Washington State develops State Actions Levels to protect the health of drinking water consumers from contaminants that are not regulated federally. The PFAS State Action Levels are public health goals for lifetime consumption of water, including by sensitive populations. If you have been drinking water over the State Action Level, it doesn't mean you will get sick or have health problems from this exposure.

The City of Vancouver's extensive water system has 40 wells located at nine wellfields across our community. Recent testing for PFAS showed that three separate sample results exceed the State Action Level for PFAS contaminants regulated by the Washington State Board of Health. Those results occurred at three of the City's nine wellfields, including Water Station 4, 14 and 15.

Water Station	PFOA result	PFOA SAL 10 ppt	PFOS result	PFOS SAL 15 ppt
Water Station 4	8.5 ppt	Below	21 ppt	Above
Water Station 14	15 ppt	Above	22 ppt	Above
Water Station 15	7 ppt	Below	20 ppt	Above

**ppt-parts per trillion (1 ppt is equivalent to a single drop of water in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools)*

A common question from water customers is, **how do I know which water station I get my water from?** Vancouver has an open system in which water can be transferred from almost any water station to different areas of the City. It is not possible to determine that any one specific area is consistently fed from a particular water station.

What is being done?

In 2020, the City completed proactive testing finding PFAS at very low levels in some of the City's groundwater wells. Since that time the City has been taking several actions surrounding PFAS, including:

- **Evaluating treatment options:** Water quality engineers are evaluating cost-effective treatment options to remove PFAS from the water.
- **Finding long-term solutions:** Expert scientists are investigating potential sources of PFAS and the extent of PFAS in the local groundwater.
- **Planning for the future:** Future costs for PFAS treatment are included in the City's long-range capital plan.
- **Reducing costs:** The City is pursuing federal and state grants and loans to reduce the impact to ratepayers.
- **Adjusting operations:** The City has prioritized sources of water supply with lower levels of PFAS to operate before sources with higher levels to reduce concentrations within the distribution system. Given the widespread prevalence of PFAS in local groundwater, water rights limitations and operational restrictions, the City cannot turn off all PFAS sources that exceed the State Action Level without impacting supply.
- **Sharing information:** Information regarding PFAS has been available since early 2021 and test results are posted on the City's website and will be reported in the Annual Water Quality Report.

What are the potential health impacts?

There are many different PFAS, and we are still learning about their health impacts in people.

- **PFOA** — Some people who drink water containing PFOA in excess of the State Action Level over many years may experience problems with their cholesterol, liver, thyroid or immune system; have high blood pressure during pregnancy; have babies with lower birthweights; and be at higher risk of getting certain types of cancers.
- **PFOS** — Some people who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the State Action Level over many years may experience problems with their cholesterol, liver, thyroid, kidney or immune systems; or have children with lower birthweights.

What can I do to reduce exposure?

Visit epa.gov/pfas/meaningful-and-achievable-steps-you-can-take-reduce-your-risk. If you have concerns, the Washington State Department of Health recommends the following:

- You can learn about PFAS and the steps you can take to reduce your exposure to PFAS in drinking water, while we evaluate options.
doh.wa.gov/pfas
- If you are pregnant, breastfeeding or mixing infant formula with tap water, use an alternative source for drinking or mixing infant formula or install home water treatment that is certified to lower the levels of PFAS in your water.
- Boiling your water will not reduce PFAS levels.
- If you have specific health concerns, consult your healthcare provider.

Learn more

For more information related to the City's water system and PFAS, please visit cityofvancouver.us/PFAS or call Utility Customer Service representatives at 360-487-7999. Please share this notice with others who may drink this water or have interest in learning more about PFAS.

VISIT:

cityofvancouver.us/PFAS
cityofvancouver.us/PFASResults



CONTACT:

City of Vancouver Utility Services
at 360-487-7999

To read this in additional languages visit
cityofvancouver.us/PFAS.

CITY OF VANCOUVER | DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS | CITYOFVANCOUVER.US/PUBLICWORKS

Notice to Drinking Water Customers

You are receiving this notice because you are one of the City of Vancouver's 78,000 water customers. Vancouver delivers about 9.5 billion gallons per year of clean and safe water to more than 270,000 people. Protecting public health and providing our customers a safe water supply is our top priority.

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