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Perfluorinated compounds detected in water within the Quebec/I-270 Corridor

The South Adams County Water and Sanitation District recently detected elevated perfluorinated compounds (referred to as PFCs or PFAS) in samples of water tested from certain shallow groundwater wells in the Quebec/I-270 corridor that feed into the district's water supply prior to treatment. The district treats its raw water before delivering the final drinking water to its customers. The resulting levels of PFOA and PFOS in the district's final treated water supply are below the 2016 U.S. EPA health advisory limit of 70 parts per trillion (ppt). The district will continue to monitor for PFCs/PFAS.

The district has taken further steps to ensure its drinking water is safe. This includes increasing the amount of water it receives from other sources to blend with treated water and also evaluating ways to optimize treatment to respond to the presence of PFCs/PFAS in groundwater. For more information about the district's water, please visit its website: www.sacwsd.org, call 303-287-6454 or email questions to wqinfo@sacwsd.org.

The EPA, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Tri-County Health Department identified an initial area of investigation that includes the Quebec/I-270 corridor. The agencies are working to identify other public and private drinking water wells in the area, as well as the possible sources of contamination. "We are working with our partners at EPA and local governments to address this issue and protect public health," said Ron Falco, safe drinking water program manager for the Water Quality Control Division. Residents who receive water from a private well or are near this area and are concerned about PFCs can call Tri-County Health Department at 303-288-6816 or email questions to ehwater@tchd.org.

PFCs/PFAS are human made chemicals that do not occur naturally in the environment. They have been used for decades in products such as firefighting foams, food wrappings, surface protection products for carpets and clothing, and other common commercial products. A number of studies have examined the possible relationship between levels of PFCs/PFAS in blood and harmful health effects in people. Studies have shown that certain perfluorinated compounds, including PFOA and PFOS, may cause a variety of health effects, including effects on pregnant women and young children. More information on health effects of perfluorinated compounds is available on the department's website: colorado.gov/cdphe/PFCs/health or the EPA website www.epa.gov/pfas. For questions about your health, please call the department at (303) 692-2606 or email cdphe_toxcall@state.co.us.