



July 7, 2022

Dear Customer,

As part of our ongoing efforts to keep our customers informed of the District’s response to the discovery of PFAS in the District’s water system, this letter is to inform you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently lowered its interim lifetime Health Advisory Level (HAL) for two per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Specifically, the HAL for two specific PFAS compounds, PFOA and PFOS, was lowered from 70 parts per trillion (ppt) combined to 0.004 ppt for PFOA and 0.02 ppt for PFOS.

These human-made chemicals (PFAS) have been used in firefighting foam and various consumer products and can affect your health. A number of other Colorado communities have identified PFAS above the new HALs in their drinking water. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has stated “[t]his is a concern, not a crisis. People do not need to stop drinking their water.” Your drinking water meets current drinking water regulations, and the District is actively pursuing PFAS reduction strategies with CDPHE.

The District’s treated drinking water has tested below 70 ppt since we first discovered PFAS in our water supply through voluntary testing in 2018. For 2021, the PFOA and PFOS concentrations in the District’s drinking water averaged 4.6 ppt for PFOA and 13 ppt for PFOS, which exceed the new, lower HALs. The EPA also set new HALs for two other PFAS compounds, GenX (HFPO) and PFBS. Based on the District’s data, GenX and PFBS concentrations in the District’s drinking water are non-detectable or well below these new HALs.

PFAS	Interim health advisory	The average level in your drinking water in 2021:	What this means:
PFOA	0.004 parts per trillion	4.6 parts per trillion	This is above the health advisory. Consider taking action to reduce your exposure.
PFOS	0.02 parts per trillion	13 parts per trillion	This is above the health advisory. Consider taking action to reduce your exposure.

According to the EPA, studies have found associations between PFOA and/or PFOS exposure and effects on the immune system, the cardiovascular system, human development (e.g., decreased birth weight), and cancer. EPA’s lifetime health advisories identify levels to protect all people, including sensitive populations and life stages (such as infants), from negative health impacts resulting from exposure throughout their lives to these PFAS in drinking water. The health advisory levels were calculated to offer a margin of protection against potential adverse health effects. Visit <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-06/technical-factsheet-four-PFAS.pdf> and <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/pfas-health> for more information.

What actions should I consider? What does this mean?

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (“CDPHE”) has stated:

- *This is a concern, not a crisis. People do not need to stop drinking their water.*
- *The lower your exposure, the lower your risk. People who are concerned can:*
 - *Reduce exposure from drinking water by using water treated by an [in-home water treatment filter](#) that is certified to lower the levels of PFAS or by using bottled water that has been treated with reverse osmosis for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula. Use tap water for*



bathing, showering, brushing teeth, washing hands, watering yards, washing dishes, cleaning, and laundry.

- *Reduce exposure from other sources. Visit <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/pfas-health> to learn more.*
- *Boiling, freezing, or letting water stand does not reduce PFAS levels.*
- *If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. An information sheet, “Talking to Your Health Care Provider about PFAS,” is available at <https://bit.ly/PFAS-doctor>.*

EPA and CDPHE do not recommended bottled water. CDPHE has stated “Using bottled water is an individual choice, but there are important concerns with bottled water. CDPHE cannot verify that all bottled water is below PFAS interim health advisories. Reverse osmosis is a treatment that removes PFAS. [CDPHE] recommend[s] people who use bottled water choose a brand that has been treated with reverse osmosis and includes this language on the bottle. Additionally, bottled water does not contain fluoride to support oral health and creates solid waste and other environmental concerns.”

What is South Adams County Water and Sanitation District doing to address the situation?

While this is not an emergency situation, CDPHE has asked impacted water systems to take actions to reduce the chemicals in drinking water. When the District discovered PFAS in its water four years ago, it took steps to reduce concentrations below the previous HAL, including:

- Shutting off wells with high PFAS concentrations;
- Increasing change-outs of PFAS filter materials;
- Purchasing state-of-the art monitoring equipment and hiring additional laboratory staff to provide frequent and rapid monitoring; and
- Working with CDPHE on upstream source control and recouping PFAS-related costs.

While we are evaluating the EPA’s new, lower HALs, the District is purchasing additional treated water from Denver Water to blend with our water to further lower the levels of PFAS. The District is also aggressively pursuing grants and other funding to pay for the long-term solution of adding additional PFAS treatment capacity.

The District takes our water quality very seriously. We are continuing to work with CDPHE to address this situation, and we will provide updates to the community as we learn more and continue to respond. For more information about the District’s response to PFAS, please visit the District website at www.sacwsd.org/pfas . For more information about the District’s water, please contact the District’s water quality information line at 303.287.6454, wqinfo@sacwsd.org, or Attn: Water Quality Info, 6595 E.70th Ave., Commerce City, CO 80022. Additional PFAS information can be found at www.colorado.gov/cdphe/pfas. If you have questions about this information, you can also contact CO HELP at 303-389-1687 or 1-877-462-2911.

Sincerely,
Abel Moreno
District Manager

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, tenants, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in public places or by distributing copies by hand.