



## **South Adams County Water and Sanitation District Responds to Revised PFAS Health Advisory Level**

*Lowered EPA interim lifetime Health Advisory Levels for PFAS now fall below South Adams County Water and Sanitation District drinking water PFAS level averages.*

Commerce City – South Adams County Water and Sanitation District has notified its customers that levels of two per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in its drinking water are now above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) interim lifetime Health Advisory Levels (HALs) for those substances. This comes after the EPA recently lowered the HALs for several specific PFAS compounds.

On June 15, 2022 the EPA lowered its interim lifetime HAL for PFOA and PFOS from 70 parts per trillion (ppt) combined to 0.004 ppt for PFOA and 0.02 ppt for PFOS.

While its treated drinking water has tested below 70 ppt for PFOA and PFOS since the District first discovered PFAS in the water supply through voluntary testing in 2018, it has exceeded the new, lower HALs. The new HAL has been set so low that it is not yet possible to scientifically detect the presence of the compounds at these levels.

In response to the EPA’s action, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) stated, “[T]his is a concern, not a crisis. People do not need to stop drinking their water.”

The District’s drinking water meets all current drinking water regulations, and the District is actively pursuing PFAS reduction strategies with CDPHE. PFAS is a nation-wide challenge, and a number of other public water systems in the Denver metro area and throughout Colorado and the U.S. have also identified PFAS above the new HALs in their drinking water.

“Ever since the District first began voluntarily testing for PFAS, we have been monitoring for these compounds and working to reduce their impact to our customers,” said District Manager Abel Moreno. “The EPA has moved the goalposts, and we are taking steps to reduce the presence of PFAS even further. We are committed to finding long-term, sustainable solutions to offer our community high quality drinking water.”

While this is not an emergency, 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 ensure concentrations remained 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 it is evaluating the EPA’s new, lower HALs, the District is purchasing additional treated water from Denver Water to blend with District water and 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. Notice of the new, lower HAL has been mailed to the District’s customers.

The District takes water quality very seriously. It will continue to work with CDPHE to address this situation and provide updates to the community . For more information about the District’s response to PFAS, please visit the District website at [www.sacwsd.org/pfas](http://www.sacwsd.org/pfas).



### **About South Adams County Water and Sanitation District**

The South Adams County Water and Sanitation District is a special district providing water and sanitary sewer service to over 65,000 residents in Commerce City and parts of unincorporated Adams County. For more information about the District, please visit [www.sacwsd.org](http://www.sacwsd.org).

###

### **Media Contact**

Theresa Friess | [TFriess@sacwsd.org](mailto:TFriess@sacwsd.org) | 720.206.0560