

Drinking Water Advisory

Tomahawk has two wells that supply water to its customers (Well 4 and Well 5). The wells are located 75' apart and draw water from the same aquifer. On both 4/18/2023 and 9/07/2023, Tomahawk Waterworks collected water samples of the Tomahawk Waterworks drinking water and tested them for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals that have been used in many products since the 1950s.

As shown in the table below, testing showed PFAS below the EPA and WDNR regulatory limit of 70ppt on both 4/18/2023 and 9/7/2023. Wisconsin DHS Health advisory limits are lower than EPA and WDNR regulatory limits. PFAS compounds in both well 4 and well 5 were present at levels above health-based standards recommended by the WI Department of Health Services (DHS) on 9/7/2023. Sample results are available: <https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/dwsportalpub/DS/View/147590>

EPA and WDNR Drinking Water Standard	Wisconsin DHS Health Advisory Limit	Well 4 4/18/23	Well 4 9/7/23	Well 5 4/18/23	Well 5 9/7/23
70 ppt	20 ppt	12.3 ppt	20.8 ppt	13 ppt	20.6 ppt

- 1 ppt (part per trillion) = 1 droplet of water in 660,000 gallons of water

What is being done to correct the problem?

Tomahawk Waterworks is not in violation of any federal or state drinking water standards or regulations and has taken actions proactively to inform and protect the health of its customers.

Tomahawk Waterworks is continuing to perform testing throughout the water distribution system for PFAS and the results will be available on the City's website as soon as it is available. <http://www.cityoftomahawkwi.com/water>

Well 4 and Well 5 have tested above the DHS recommended ground water standards for PFAS or exceeded hazard index calculation, which elevates risk from PFAS mixtures. Tomahawk Waterworks is investigating the feasibility of any operational changes that can reduce the amount of PFAS in the drinking water. Tomahawk Waterworks is also looking into long-term treatment solutions. Any updated information will be available on the website as it becomes available.

In addition to reviewing sampling and treatment methods, Tomahawk Waterworks has been exploring options for additional well sites. In 2012, a new well site was identified, tested, and approved for water quality and supply. Tomahawk Waterworks is in the process of retesting this new well site for PFOA/PFAS and other water quality standards to see if this well site is still a viable alternative. This alternative would require construction and installation of additional infrastructure to be put into use.

Potential Health Risks of PFAS and Consumption Advisory

Long term exposure to high levels of the PFAS may increase cholesterol levels, reduce antibody levels, and reduce a woman's fertility. **Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) recommends people limit their intake of PFAS compounds. People can reduce exposure to PFAS by limiting their consumption of Tomahawk Waterworks drinking water.**

People can consider alternative water sources such as:

- Other sources of water that have been tested for PFAS and do not have levels above recommended standards.
- Filtered water from a pitcher, sink, or whole-house filter system with a certified filter technology. A granular activated carbon (GAC) filter that meets ANSI/NSF Standard 53 or a reverse osmosis (RO) filter with an included GAC component can filter out PFAS. These numbers will be printed on the filter and/or packaging. More information about filtering out PFAS from drinking water is available here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p03012.pdf> **Boiling water does not remove PFAS.**

What are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of human-made chemicals that are resistant to heat, water, and oil. These chemicals have been used for decades in many industrial applications and consumer products such as carpeting, waterproof clothing, upholstery, food paper wrappings, personal care products, fire-fighting foams, and metal plating. PFAS have been found at low levels both in the environment and in blood samples of the general U.S. population.

How are people exposed to PFAS and why are they harmful?

The main way that people are exposed to PFAS is by drinking water or eating food containing them. PFAS chemicals do not easily absorb into the skin so contact with water that contains PFAS poses a very low health risk.

A large number of studies have examined possible relationships between levels of PFAS in blood and harmful health effects in people. However, most of these studies analyzed only a small number of chemicals, and not all PFAS have the same health effects. This research suggests that high levels of certain PFAS may increase cholesterol levels, decrease how well the body responds to vaccines, and reduce fertility in women. Some other studies have indicated that high levels of certain PFAS may increase the risk of thyroid disease, increase the risk of serious conditions like high blood pressure or pre-eclampsia in pregnant women, and lower infant birth weights.

How do PFAS get into drinking water?

PFAS can get into drinking water when products containing them are used or spilled onto the ground or into lakes and rivers as well as from manufacturing and disposal. PFAS move easily through the ground, getting into groundwater that is used for some water supplies or for private drinking water wells. When spilled into lakes or rivers used as sources of drinking water, they can get into drinking water supplies. PFAS in the air can also end up in rivers and lakes used for drinking water.

GENERAL PFAS QUESTIONS --- PLEASE SEE THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES WEBSITE: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Contaminants/PFAS.html>

HEALTH RELATED QUESTIONS---DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES:

Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health at dhsenvhealth@wi.gov or 608-266-1120. More information about PFAS and health risk can be found on the Wisconsin DHS website at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm>

OPERATION OF TOMAHAWK WATERWORKS -

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I certify that the information and statements contained in this public notice are true and correct and have been provided to consumers in accordance with the delivery, content, format, and deadline requirements in Subchapter VII of ch. NR 809, Wis. Adm. Code.

X **GLENN HANNA**

Signature

Date

** 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, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail

*** If 5% or more of the population served by your water system consists of non-English speaking consumers, the public notice must contain information in the appropriate language(s).