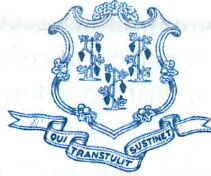


STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH




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Commissioner

Drinking Water Section

DWS Circular Letter #2018-19

To: All Public Water Systems, Chief Elected Officials, Local Directors of Health and Certified Operators

From: Lori J. Mathieu, Public Health Section Chief, Drinking Water Section 

Date: September 27, 2018

Subject: Drinking Water Section Update for Public Water Systems regarding Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

This circular letter is intended to provide updated information to Connecticut's Public Water Systems on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and the resources that have been developed by the Department of Public Health (DPH) Drinking Water Section (DWS) and Environmental Health Section (EHS) in collaboration with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

None of the large public drinking water systems that serve approximately 2.4 million CT customers required to monitor for PFAS by the Third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3) found concentrations above the reporting limit in their drinking water, which suggests that there is not a widespread PFAS issue in CT. However, the experiences of other Northeastern states with PFAS contamination in ground water has prompted the DWS to prepare a strategy with a course of action should PFAS be detected in public drinking water sources of supply in CT.

- The DPH EHS has evaluated the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (US EPA) lifetime health advisory for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and agrees with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that 70 parts per trillion (ppt) is an appropriate drinking water target concentration but has added three additional PFAS, perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorohexane sulfonate (PFHxS) and perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA) to its recommended [Drinking Water Action Level](#) (DWAL) of 70 ppt for the sum of the concentrations of these five PFAS. Currently there are no enforceable standards established by the Safe Drinking Water Act



Phone: (860) 509-7333 • Fax: (860) 509-7359
Telecommunications Relay Service 7-1-1
410 Capitol Avenue, MS #12DWS, P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308
www.ct.gov/dph

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for PFAS in public drinking water and until there are federal standards, the DWS will be recommending actions based upon the DPH DWAL using the Commissioners authority granted under Connecticut General Statutes section 22a-471. The DPH EHS is keeping abreast of the rapidly emerging science and risk assessments on PFAS. These evaluations will be considered on an ongoing basis to determine if the DWAL requires updating.

- The DWS has created a web page dedicated to providing information on PFAS for Public Water Systems and their customers. The webpage can be accessed directly by [clicking here](#) and is also a Featured Link on the [DWS home page](#).
- All Public Water Systems and applicants for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for a public water system will be required to sample for PFAS when developing new sources of public drinking water supply. The DPH EHS has published a list of laboratories registered in CT that are approved by EPA to conduct PFAS analysis using EPA Method 537. DPH DWS will notify DEEP pursuant to CGS Section 22a-471 of pollution of ground waters if PFAS is detected.
- The DWS, Catherine A. Kelley Public Health Laboratory, and DEEP with the assistance of US EPA Region 1 and the Greenwich Health Department sampled 14 public wells and ten private wells for PFAS after officials from NY State informed the DWS that there was PFAS contamination in public drinking wells along the CT/New York Border. One private well was confirmed to contain levels of PFAS exceeding the DWAL. The DPH used this experience to develop practical technical assistance and communication tools and strategies to assist Public Water Systems should PFAS be detected in other regions of the state.

PFAS is an emerging contaminant. Knowledge of PFAS sources, health effects, and its fate and transport in the environment has been evolving, therefore, the DPH continues to be informed and engaged on this important topic. If you have any questions regarding this Circular Letter, please contact Pat Bisacky at 860-509-7333 or via email at Patricia.Bisacky@ct.gov.

Cc: Yvonne Addo and Janet Brancifort, Deputy Commissioners, DPH
Ellen Blaschinski, Chief Operating Officer, DPH
Jane Downing, USEPA Region 1
Suzanne Blancaflor, Public Health Section Chief, DPH Environmental Health Section
Brian Toal, Supervising Epidemiologist, Environmental and Occupational Health Assessment Program, DPH EHS
Ryan Tetreault, Supervising Environmental Analyst, Private Well Program
Caroline Baisley, Director of Health, Greenwich Health Department
Robert Kaliszewski, Betsey Wingfield, Jan Czczotka, Shannon Pociu, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
John W. Betkoski, III, CTDEEP Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, Chairman Water Planning Council