

CONSUMER DRINKING WATER NOTICE

Snake River Water District – PWSID: CO0159105

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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, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in public places or by distributing copies by hand.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Snake River Water District (District) sampled treated water under requirements of the EPA’s Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) program and tested for a group of unregulated chemicals scientifically known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances or PFAS. The water sample results received on June 29th, 2023 showed that certain PFAS chemicals, PFOA and/or PFOS, are present in the drinking water. **There is not an immediate health risk.** The District is not in a unique position, as unfortunately PFAS are being found in water supplies across the country as sampling efforts continue. In response to the data, we are taking action by completing additional testing to confirm the results, evaluating removal methods, and monitoring regulatory developments as the EPA continues to gather data about PFAS.

The EPA released interim lifetime health advisories in June 2022 and proposed drinking water standards in March 2023 for PFOA and PFOS and four other PFAS contaminants. EPA has issued and revised the health advisories multiple times since 2009 as more information about PFAS becomes available. The EPA anticipates finalizing the drinking water standard by the end of 2023. The District is working closely with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) on possible next steps to understand and evaluate this concern.

Drinking water limits are enforceable, which means water systems must meet them. U.S. EPA sets drinking water limits as close to the level where no health impacts are expected, considering the ability to measure and treat the chemical, among other factors. Health advisories, on the other hand, are more narrowly focused on the potential health impacts and do not consider other aspects. Water systems are not required to meet health advisory levels, but instead use the technical information provided to help with decision making, which may include additional sampling, customer outreach, installation of treatment, or other actions. More information on the development of federal drinking water limits is available at <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/how-epa-regulates-drinking-water-contaminants> and more information on U.S. EPA’s health advisory levels is available at <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/questions-and-answers-drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-pfos-genx-chemicals-and-pfbs>. Through the UCMR program, water systems collect data on a group of contaminants that are currently not regulated in drinking water at the federal level. U.S. EPA uses this information

WHAT IS A PART PER TRILLION?

A part per trillion describes the amount of something, in this case PFAS, in water or soil. Here is an idea of what that means:

parts per million (ppm)

3 drops



added to a 42-gallon barrel

parts per billion (ppb)

1 drop



added to a large tanker truck

parts per trillion (ppt)

10 drops



added to the Rose Bowl

when deciding if it needs to create new drinking water limits. More information on the UCMR program can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>

SAMPLING RESULTS

The District owns and operates two water treatment plants (WTP); the Base 2 WTP and the Base 3 WTP. Samples were collected from the treated water at both WTP. No PFAS were detected in the treated water from Base 2 WTP. Several PFAS chemicals were detected above the minimum reporting levels at the Base 3 WTP for which the results are provided in the table below. The levels shown are in parts per trillion (ppt). EPA has proposed drinking water standards for some of the PFAS chemicals detected and are also shown in the table.

PFAS Chemical Acronym	Test Result (ppt)	Proposed Drinking Water Standard (ppt)	Interim Health Advisory (ppt)	What it Means to You:
PFOA*	0	4.0	0.004	PFOA was not detected
PFOS*	13	4.0	0.02	This is above the proposed drinking water standard and health advisory. Consider taking action to reduce your exposure.
HFPO-DA (GenX)	0	Calculated Health Index	10	
PFHxS	9.3		No advisory	
PFNA	0		No advisory	
PFBS	5		2,000	

*The lowest level the laboratory can report accurately measured results for PFOA and PFOS for EPA's UCMR testing is 4 parts per trillion.

WHAT IS SNAKE RIVER WATER DISTRICT DOING ABOUT PFAS IN DRINKING WATER?

The District will complete a second set of sampling and analysis per the requirements of the UCMR; sampling is currently scheduled to occur in October of 2023 with lab analysis results expected 6-12 weeks after sampling.

The District is also planning further sampling in the coming months beyond the UCMR requirements to confirm the presence of the PFAS chemicals and to gather data to help make decisions moving forward. The additional sampling includes testing each well to identify if a particular well has higher PFAS concentrations. We will closely watch the development of new PFAS regulations and share information with you as it becomes available.

WHAT ARE PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are manufactured chemicals used in many household products including nonstick cookware (e.g., Teflon™), stain repellants (e.g., Scotchgard™), and waterproofing (e.g., GORE-TEX™). They are also used in industrial applications such as in firefighting foams and electronics production. There are thousands of PFAS chemicals which are also known as "forever chemicals" due to their persistence in the environment. Two well-known PFAS chemicals are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and

perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). These were phased out of production in the United States and replaced by hexafluoropropylene oxide-dimer acid (commonly known as GenX), perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS) and others.

Additional information on PFAS from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/pfas> or from the CDPHE at <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/pfas>.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO LIMIT EXPOSURE TO PFAS?

People do not need to stop drinking their water as current health advisories are based on a lifetime of exposure. However, the lower the levels of PFOA and PFOS, the lower the risk. There are ways for individuals who are concerned about PFAS in their drinking water or from other sources to reduce exposure.

- There is not an immediate public health risk.
- CDPHE will keep providing facts to help inform the public on the latest science.
- There are certain higher risk groups that may want to reduce their exposure.
 - Children ages 0-5 years, and people who are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding are more susceptible to health impacts from these chemicals. Visit <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/pfas-health> for more information.

People can reduce their 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.

- 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 method that removes PFAS. We recommend 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.
- Boiling, freezing, or letting water stand for a period of time does not reduce PFAS levels.

PFAS can be found in many consumer products. One way to reduce exposure is to think about what products you are buying and using.

- **Buy products from companies who have committed to removing PFAS** from their manufacturing.
- **Be aware.** Many companies are working to remove PFAS from their products; however, until the removal is complete, products including nonstick cookware (e.g., Teflon™), stain repellants (e.g., Scotchgard™), and water proofing (e.g., GORE-TEX™) may have PFAS. PFAS are also found in certain types of dental floss, nail polish, facial moisturizers, eye make-up, and more.
- **Avoid non-stick cookware that has PFAS.** Consider using stainless steel or cast-iron pots and pans. When the coating on existing non-stick cookware shows signs of wear-and-tear, replace them with stainless steel or cast-iron cookware.
- There are many sources of PFAS in the environment, people may consider reducing exposure from other sources. Visit <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/pfas-health> to learn more.

If you have specific health concerns, talk to your doctor. An information sheet, "Talking to your health care provider about PFAS," is available at <https://bit.ly/PFAS-doctor>.