

# **PFAS – Background & Monitoring**

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## What are PFAS?

- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
- A group of man-made chemicals designed to repel water, oil, and grease
- Present in many consumer products









# PFAS: Per- and polyfluoroalkyl Substances

- Includes 3000+ chemicals with a shared chemistry
  - $\checkmark$  Tail: Variable length carbon chain that is either fully or partially fluorinated
  - ✓ Head: Variable chemical group
- High environmental risk
  - Do not readily degrade
  - ✓ Very mobile
- Potential human health risk
  - / Bio accumulative
  - Long half-life in humans
  - ✓ Can be toxic at low levels



# **PFAS: Environmental Sources**

## Manufacturing & Industrial Sites

- Chemical (PFAS) manufacturers
- Secondary manufacturers: coating application
  - Textile & leather processors, paper mills
  - Plating facilities, metal finishers, wire manufacturers
  - Facilities using surfactants, resins, plastics, molds

## AFFF Use / Fire Training Areas

- Commercial & civilian airports
- Military bases

### Landfills

Land Spreading – Biosolids

# PFAS: Exposure Pathways

- Drinking water and soil from industrial areas with frequent PFAS manufacture, disposal, or use
- Indoor air or dust from consumer products treated with PFAS to resist stains
- Surface water or groundwater receiving run-off or seepage from areas where firefighting foam was often used (like military or commecial airfields)
- Fish from contaminated bodies of water
- Grease resistant food packaging and paper products

## Potential Human Health Impacts

- Scientists are still learning about the health effects.
  - The more widely used substances, like PFOS, PFOA, perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), and perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), have been studied more than other PFAS.
- Some, but not all, studies in humans have shown that certain PFAS may:
  - Affect growth, learning, and behavior of infants and older children
  - Lower a person's chance of getting pregnant
  - Interfere with the body's natural hormones
  - Increase cholesterol levels
  - Affect the immune system
  - Increase the risk of cancer
- Scientists are still learning about the effects of exposures to mixtures of PFAS.
- The science is very limited for the next generation/replacement PFAS.

# Guidance: EPA Health Advisory Level

- Combined PFOA & PFOS
- Provides a margin of safety
- Emphasis on fetuses and breastfed infants
- Based on things like:
  - Body weight
  - Water consumption
  - Estimate of other PFA exposures

EPA Health Advisory 70 ppt Well 15 12 ppt

ppt: part per trillion

### Federal and State Drinking Water Guidelines

	PFOA	PFOS	PFHxS	PFHpA	PFNA	PFBA	PFBS	Gen-X
New Jersey	14	13			13			
California	14	13						
Minnesota	35	27	27			7000	2000	
New Hampshire	70	38	85		23			
North Carolina								140

#### **INDIVIDUAL PFAS COMPOUNDS**

#### SUMMED PFAS

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	PFOA	PFOS	PFHxS	PFHpA	PFNA	PFBA	PFBS	Gen-X	
Vermont			20						
Alaska			70				2000		
Connecticut			70						
Massachusetts			70				2000		
Maine	7	0							
Michigan	7	0	<u>Sources</u> : www.asdwa.org/pfas/ A						
New Hampshire	7	0							
Rhode Island	7	0							
US EPA	7	0	pfas-1.itrcweb.org Ac						

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# **PFAS** Monitoring









# Madison Water Utility PFAS Monitoring 2019: Modified EPA Method 537 Reporting limit: 24 & 30 types Test all 22 wells of PFAS 2-4 ppt Results: PFOA + PFOS ranges from ND to 12 ppt Total PFAS ranges from ND to 56 ppt



# Known PFAS Source

### Truax Field – Air National Guard Base



# Next Steps

# Next Steps – One Year

- Continue testing Madison drinking water wells
- WDNR Fish tissue sampling and analysis
  - ➢ Revise fish consumption advisory(?)
- Soil and groundwater testing Truax / Airport
- Water/sediment testing Starkweather Creek
- Wait for DNR/DHS interim guidance for PFOA and PFOS (groundwater standard)

# Next Steps – Long Term

- Characterize extent of known contamination
- Evaluate treatment alternatives
- Clean up sources



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www.cityofmadison.com/water/water-quality/water-quality-testing/perfluorinated-compounds