

PFAS

PFAS, also known as Per- and Poly Fluoro Alkyl Substances or “forever chemicals” found in non-stick pans, flame retardant in fabrics, firefighting foam, and food packaging can now be detected in some water supplies. There are currently no state or federal drinking water quality standards (Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL) for any chemical in the PFAS family, making PFAS a topic of conversation in the news this past year.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has yet to develop national drinking water standards for these chemicals, so a number of states have proceeded to adopt their own standards with different risk assessments and factors. Company representatives and the water industry associations have been engaged in the process to encourage adoption of a consistent national, science-based standard.

To provide data and better understand if these compounds are present in our water supplies, three of our subsidiaries have voluntarily monitored for PFAS compounds. San Jose Water started voluntarily monitoring its wells in January 2019 while the California Department of Drinking Water (DDW) issued orders for quarterly monitoring of 17 wells at four stations. San Jose Water found a total of 10 wells at three stations with PFAS results near or over the CA Notification Level of 6.5 ng/L. All wells were immediately shut down and San Jose Water sent required notifications to towns, cities, California Public Utilities Commission, Santa Clara County, and DDW. San Jose Water also voluntarily notified all affected customers, made personal follow-up calls to all customers who had questions, and set up a [website](#) to answer customer questions. San Jose Water is actively working with Valley Water, the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the Division of Drinking Water to identify solutions for the removal of PFAS from its ground water supply. Connecticut Water voluntarily started testing our water systems for PFAS in late 2019, completed testing of all surface water supplies. PFAS were not detected at any of those surface water supply sources, which provide for over 50 percent of our average daily water demand. We also worked with the

Connecticut Department of Public Health to identify the groundwater sources that were considered to be the most vulnerable to PFAS and tested those locations in 2020. PFAS were detected in some of those sources at concentrations ranging between 3 and 18 ng/L which are well below Connecticut’s action level and the recommended federal health advisory level of 70 ng/L. Customers served by the affected water sources have been notified about the presence of PFAS by mail. We will continue testing its groundwater sources for PFAS throughout the remainder of 2020 and into 2021.

Maine Water has tested all of our water sources for PFAS and were only detected in its Oakland water system. The water for the Oakland system is supplied by a neighboring water utility. The level detected was 6.96 ng/L, which is well below Maine and federal standards. Customers were notified of the detection and information was included in the [Oakland water system’s CCR](#).