



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 22, 2022

Municipal Utilities Board of the City of Albertville
Evaluating New PFOA, PFOS Health Advisory Levels

The Environmental Protection Agency has recently issued an updated health advisory lowering **LIFETIME** exposure to PFOS and PFOA levels in drinking water. The new advisory levels are well below what were previously non-detectable levels. This is an advisory only and is not a regulation or law. Due to the newly announced advisory levels, recent testing of Municipal Utilities Board of the City of Albertville (MUB) drinking water shows results above the EPA’s new 2022 advisory levels for PFOS and PFOA but below those added for GenX Chemicals and PFBS.

While customers need to be aware of this change to the health advisory, MUB drinking water has been and continues to be safe to drink and use in bathing, cooking, cleaning, etc. The 2016 and 2022 advisory limits are based on a **lifetime of daily consumption**.

The EPA issued the updated health advisory levels for PFOA and PFOS on an interim basis until the release of permanent regulatory requirements for these two contaminants. The health advisories will, in part, inform their decision-making on setting future enforceable limits. EPA acknowledged that current testing technology could not detect the presence of PFOA or PFOS at the levels in the new 2022 advisory. Test data for MUB’s drinking water is based on current technology capabilities at third-party independent laboratories.

Sampled February 2022

Chemical	2016 Advisory	2022 Advisory	9 MGD Plant	12 MGD Plant
PFOA	70 ppt (combined)	.004 ppt	8.7 ppt	8.3 ppt
PFOS	70 ppt (combined)	.02 ppt	6.6 ppt	5.6 ppt
GenX	NA	10 ppt	Non-Detect	Non-Detect
PFBS	NA	2,000	Non-Detect	Non-Detect

**For reference, one part per trillion (ppt) is the equivalent of one square inch in 250 square miles OR one second in nearly 32,000 years OR one ounce in 7.5 billion gallons of water.*

MUB’s Management, Staff, and Board of Directors will be evaluating the new advisory levels, ongoing test results, and any steps that will need to be taken to come into compliance once EPA sets Maximum Contaminant Levels for PFOA and PFOS under the upcoming National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. At that time, MUB will explore grants and other funding options to minimize these regulations’ impact on customer rates.

These new health advisories affect not only MUB but almost every water system in Alabama and the country. A complete listing of systems in Alabama that has detections can be found on ADEM’s website at the following address: **ADEM State-Wide PFAS sampling report - [2022AllResultsMRL.pdf](https://www.adem.gov/Portals/0/2022AllResultsMRL.pdf) (alabama.gov)**

PFAS Background:

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), including PFOA and PFOS, are synthetic chemicals that have been manufactured and used by a broad range of industries since the 1940s. PFAS are used in many applications because of their unique physical properties, such as resistance to high and low temperatures, resistance to degradation, and nonstick characteristics. PFAS have been detected worldwide in the air, soil, and water. Due to their widespread use and persistence in the environment, most people in the United States have been exposed to PFAS. Source: www.epa.gov

For Additional Information:

EPA Fact Sheet for Communities - <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-06/drinking-water-ha-pfas-factsheet-communities.pdf>

American Water Works Association Statement on PFAS - <https://www.awwa.org/AWWA-Articles/awwa-statement-on-epa-pfas-health-advisories>