

## Drinking Water Advisory

On April 3, 2023, the Brockway Sanitary District collected water samples of their drinking water and tested them for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The results of those samples were received on April 21, 2023. PFAS compounds in both Entry Point 1 and Entry Point 2 were present at levels above health-based standards recommended by the WI Department of Health Services (DHS). The hazard index is based on the cumulative effects of multiple PFAS compounds. A hazard index of greater than 1 is considered a cause for concern.

Since April of 2023, the Brockway Sanitary District has sampled both entry points for PFAS each quarter. The most recent results, from September 10, 2024 are below. Results from previous PFAS samples can be found on the DNR web site at <https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/dwsportalpub/DS/View/145779>. To see the results, click on Other Chemical Samples, then type pfas into the filter.

Here are the Sample results from September 10, 2024:

### Entry Point 1

PFBS	6.52	NG/L
PFHPA	0	NG/L
PFHXA	0.795	NG/L
PFHXS	0.33	NG/L
PFOA	0.624	NG/L
PFOS	0.294	NG/L

Hazard Index 0.054

### Entry Point 2

PFBS	11	NG/L
PFHPA	0.381	NG/L
PFHXA	1.01	NG/L
PFHXS	0.468	NG/L
PFOA	0.702	NG/L
PFOS	0.325	NG/L

Hazard Index 0.063

### Potential Health Risks of PFAS and Consumption Advisory

Long term exposure to high levels of the PFAS may increase cholesterol levels, reduce antibody levels, and reduce a woman's fertility. **Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) recommends people limit their intake of PFAS compounds. People can reduce exposure to PFAS by limiting their consumption of Brockway Sanitary District drinking water.**

### People can consider alternative water sources such as:

- Other sources of water that have been tested for PFAS and do not have levels above recommended standards.
- Filtered water from a pitcher, sink, or whole-house filter system with a certified filter technology. A granular activated carbon (GAC) filter that meets ANSI/NSF Standard 53 or a reverse osmosis (RO) filter with an included GAC component can filter out PFAS. These numbers will be printed on the filter and/or packaging. More information about filtering out PFAS from drinking water is available here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p03012.pdf>.
- **Boiling water does not remove PFAS.**

### What is being done to correct the problem?

The Brockway Sanitary District is not in violation of any federal or state drinking water standards or regulations and has taken actions proactively to inform and protect the health of its customers.

Brockway has limited the use of well 1, as it has had higher levels of PFAS. The water system is looking at replacing the existing wells with new ones that are free of PFAS. Two test wells have been drilled. The system is in the process of applying for funding to develop new production wells.

## **What are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)?**

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of human-made chemicals that are resistant to heat, water, and oil. These chemicals have been used for decades in many industrial applications and consumer products such as carpeting, waterproof clothing, upholstery, food paper wrappings, personal care products, fire-fighting foams, and metal plating. PFAS have been found at low levels both in the environment and in blood samples of the general U.S. population.

## **How people be exposed to PFAS and why are they harmful?**

The main way that people are exposed to PFAS is by drinking water or eating food containing them. PFAS chemicals do not easily absorb into the skin so contact with water that contains PFAS poses a very low health risk.

A large number of studies among people have examined possible relationships between levels of PFAS in blood and health effects. This research suggests that high levels of certain PFAS may increase cholesterol levels, decrease how well the body responds to vaccines, and reduce fertility in women. Some other studies have indicated that high levels of certain PFAS may increase the risk of thyroid disease, increase the risk of serious conditions like high blood pressure or pre-eclampsia in pregnant women, and lower infant birth weights.

## **How does PFAS get into drinking water?**

PFAS can get into drinking water when products containing them are used or spilled onto the ground or into lakes and rivers. PFAS can also get into the environment from manufacturing and disposal. PFAS move easily through the ground getting into groundwater that is used for some water supplies. When spilled into waterbodies used as sources of drinking water, they can get into drinking water supplies. PFAS in the air can also end up in waterbodies used for drinking water.

**If you have questions regarding the Brockway Sanitary District drinking water or the testing, please contact: Mark Hill-Sanitary Maintenance Supervisor at 715-299-3649 or the Sanitary Board at our monthly meeting held on the second Wednesday of each month at 5:45 pm.**

**GENERAL PFAS QUESTIONS --- PLEASE SEE THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES WEBSITE:** <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Contaminants/PFAS.html>

**HEALTH RELATED QUESTIONS---DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES:** More information about PFAS and health risk can be found on the Wisconsin DHS website at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm>. For specific health questions, individuals can contact DHS staff at [dhsenvhealth@wi.gov](mailto:dhsenvhealth@wi.gov) or 608-266-1120.