

Water Works and Sanitary Sewer Board of the City of Montgomery Comments

on EPA Interim Health Advisory

On June 15, 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an interim health advisory which lowered the lifetime exposure levels of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in drinking water. These two compounds are part of a large and diverse group of man-made chemicals known as PFAS (per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances) which can be present in water, soil, air and food as well as in materials found in our homes and workplaces. These interim levels are significantly lower than the previous, non-detectable levels.

Testing by Montgomery Water Works of Montgomery's drinking water in February and May of 2022 at the request of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management did not detect any level of PFOA or PFOS. A recent result around 2 parts per trillion at the C.T. Perry Water Treatment Plant on the Tallapoosa River exceeds the current advisory. It is well below the previous health advisory of 70 parts per trillion in effect prior to June 15, 2022. For perspective, two parts per trillion is equal to two drops of water in twenty Olympic-sized swimming pools or two seconds in 31,500 years. None of the groundwater well sources for Montgomery's water had detectable levels of PFOA or PFOS. Both the prior and interim 2022 advisory limits are based on a lifetime of continuous daily consumption.

It is important to remember that these new interim health advisory levels are only an advisory and are not a regulation or law. The advisory was issued on a short-term basis until EPA does further study of these chemicals prior to issuing permanent regulations. Additionally, the EPA acknowledged that current testing technology cannot detect the presence of PFOA or PFOS at the levels put forth in the advisory. Montgomery Water Works' treated water currently meets all public health standards under state law and the federal *Safe Drinking Water Act*.

"Montgomery Water Works will continue to test for these and any other contaminants as required by ADEM," said Bill Henderson, General Manager of the Montgomery Water Works. "We are studying the advisory levels and test results, as well as any impact a future permanent regulation could have on our current and future operations," he added. Henderson explained, "The vast majority of test results received by the Montgomery Water Works have not detected PFOA and PFOS."

For more information about PFAS and the health advisory, please visit the EPA's frequently asked questions at <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/questions-and-answers-drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-pfos-genx-chemicals-and-pfbs>