

September 6, 2023

TALLMADGE RESIDENT
1234 MAIN ST
GRAND RAPIDS MI 49534

Subject: Potential PFAS in Drinking Water

Site:

Parcel:

Dear RESIDENT

Recent routine water samples for PFAS compounds (polyfluoroalkyl substances) at a drinking water well that is located in the vicinity of your property at _____ had elevated levels of PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonic acid). Specifically, the average of the most recent samples for PFOS is 15 parts per trillion (ppt) which is just under the maximum contaminant limit of 16 ppt.

PFAS is a generic term for a group of chemicals that consist of over 100 different chemical compounds. When water is sampled for PFAS, it is sampled for many different types of those chemical compounds. Among the sample results, there are seven chemicals that have a maximum contaminant level established. Of those seven different chemicals, PFOS is the only chemical near the maximum contaminant level.

The Ottawa County Department of Public Health has limited funding available to collect between 10-15 samples from residential homes in the surrounding area. If you are interested in having your residential address sampled, please contact this office at 616-393-5645. Not every address that responds will be chosen. The decision to sample at a given address will be based on available well information for that parcel, proximity to known elevated PFAS samples, and other criteria. Sample results can be collected at an outside faucet so you do not have to be home, and it is preferred to have a faucet that can provide water that has not gone through a water softener or other treatment system. In order to conserve staff time and resources, all samples will be collected on the same day and shipped directly to a certified laboratory for analysis.

If you submit your address and it is chosen, your sample results will be shared with you. Once all sample results have been received, they will be compiled and a second letter will be sent out informing nearby parcels of the results. It is the Ottawa County Department of Public Health's goal to provide you with accurate information so you, as the homeowner, can make informed decisions regarding additional sampling or the purchase and installation of a water filter.

When there are elevated levels of PFAS compounds, a filtration system may be recommended. Approved under-counter filtration systems are effective at removing PFAS compounds from drinking water. The total cost to purchase and install a filtration system costs approximately \$500, which is comparable to the cost of sampling your water for PFAS.

Also included with this letter is a handout titled PFAS in Drinking Water, which is a general overview of PFAS, it's health effects, and information about filters.

If your home is not chosen for sampling and you choose to sample for PFAS, the Ottawa County Department of Public Health encourages you to share the results with us. Providing the results to this department will help to determine if further action is needed in your residential area and may open up funding to assist with additional sampling.

Please contact this department if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Matthew Allen

Environmental Health Supervisor, OCDPH

616-393-5645