



Greene County Sanitary Engineering

Press Release

Date/Time: October 14, 2020, 2:00 P.M.

Subject: PFAS Testing Program

Background

Ohio and states nationwide are faced with challenges related to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which have been manufactured and used for years in everyday items such as nonstick cookware, water-resistant clothing and personal care products. PFAS compounds have also been widely used in firefighting foams, at military installations and fire training facilities. PFAS compounds are classified as contaminants of emerging concern, meaning that research into the harm they may cause to human health is still ongoing.

Actions by Ohio EPA

In an announcement on September 27, 2019, Governor Mike DeWine directed the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to develop a statewide PFAS action plan to analyze the prevalence of these substances in Ohio's drinking water. Under this plan, Ohio EPA is coordinating sampling and analysis, through contracted environmental firms and certified laboratories, of approximately 1,500 public water systems statewide.

Ohio EPA and ODH have established Action Levels for six specific PFAS compounds (see table below). Action Levels are based on health advisory information published by the USEPA and other health-related research that has been conducted on exposure to PFAS compounds. An Action Level is not a boundary between a "safe" and "dangerous" level of a chemical. Rather, it is a level that represents the concentration at which no adverse non-cancer health effects would be anticipated in the most sensitive populations if the testing results are lower than the action level.

PFAS Compounds	PFOA	PFOS	GenX	PFBS	PFHxS	PFNA
Ohio Action Level in parts per trillion (ppt)	>70 single or combined with PFOS	>70 single or combined with PFOA	>700	>140,000	>140	>21

On July 27, 2020, the Ohio EPA sampled groundwater and drinking water from three Greene County Sanitary Engineering Department (GCSED) water production facilities:

1. Northwest Regional North Water Plant (Beaver Valley Road, Beaver Creek, OH);
2. Northwest Regional South Water Plant (Shakertown Road, Beaver Creek, OH);
3. Southwest Regional Water Plant (Spring Valley, OH).

Ohio EPA posted the sample results at pfas.ohio.gov. **For the six GCSED samples (three groundwater samples and three finished water samples), the laboratory analysis indicated that PFAS compounds were non-detectable, meaning the concentrations of these compounds in the samples were below laboratory detection limits.**

Next Steps: GCSED's Continued Focus on Water Safety

Besides producing drinking water at the three facilities sampled by Ohio EPA, GCSED also purchases water produced by Fairborn and Dayton which includes connections through Montgomery County. To provide a more complete picture of the extent of PFAS compounds in its drinking water system, GCSED will be conducting its own testing to supplement the Ohio EPA testing. GCSED will be testing the following samples:

- Groundwater supplies serving the three GCSED water production facilities (4 wellfields)
- Water produced at GCSED's three water production facilities
- Purchased water at the connections with other water systems (Dayton, Fairborn and Montgomery County)

As an additional precaution, GCSED is proactively collecting samples, ensuring the validity of data, and identifying appropriate response measures, if necessary, including outreach and communication with our Public Water Supply customers. GCSED has retained the services of an environmental consulting firm and a certified testing laboratory for this sampling program. Sample collection is scheduled for October 2020. Further communication will be provided once testing results are received and analyzed (approximately 6 weeks after sample collection).

Testing will indicate if any of these PFAS compounds are detected. Since samples are being obtained from wellfields, water production facilities, and connections for purchased water, if PFAS compounds are detected, GCSED will be in a good position to identify the specific sources of PFAS compounds and conduct appropriate follow-up actions.

If PFAS are not detected in the finished water supply, no additional monitoring or action will be taken. If a PFAS compound is found at a concentration greater than 50% of the Ohio Action Level, GCSED will enact at least one year of quarterly monitoring and develop an action plan to reduce the detected PFAS compounds.

Be assured that if PFAS compounds are detected above the Ohio Action Level, GCSED is committed to address these contaminants and reducing their concentrations in the drinking water as expeditiously as possible. If PFAS compounds are detected above the Ohio Action Level, GCSED will work alongside the Ohio EPA and applicable stakeholders to develop both a short-term and long-term action plan to address this issue.

If you have any questions about the sampling at our public water systems or this sampling initiative, please contact GCSED at (937) 562-7450.

Thank you.