

THE VILLAGE OF
MT. MORRIS

105 West Lincoln Street
Mt. Morris, Illinois 61054
ID#: 1410350

July 2021,

Dear Water System Customer:

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) recently tested our water system for compounds known as Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) as part of a statewide investigation of community water supplies. PFAS are a group of thousands of manmade substances that have been produced in the United States since the 1940s and utilized for a variety of applications ranging from water and stain-proofing to firefighting. Some PFAS have been phased out of production due to environmental and human health concerns, yet they persist in the environment and may contaminate surface and ground waters.

Neither the Illinois EPA nor the U.S. EPA have yet developed enforceable drinking water standards for PFAS. In the interim, Illinois EPA has developed health-based Draft Guidance Levels for the small number of PFAS for which there is appropriate information to do so. There is not enough information available to scientists to develop health-based Draft Guidance Levels for most PFAS. Draft Guidance Levels are intended to be protective of all people consuming the water over a lifetime of exposure. It is important to understand that Draft Guidance Levels are not regulatory limits for drinking water. Rather, the Draft Guidance Levels are benchmarks against which sampling results are compared to determine if additional investigation or other response action is necessary.

In June 2021, the Village of Mt. Morris learned Illinois EPA testing had determined PFAS compounds were detected in samples drawn from 1 well that supplies our water system at values greater than or equal to the Illinois EPA health-based Draft Guidance Levels. See table below:

PFAS Analyte	Acronym	Guidance Level (ppt)	Your Results (ppt)	
			TP01 Collected 05/26/2021	TP01 Collected 06/16/2021
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid	PFBS	2,100	14	15
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid	PFHxS	140	69	71
Perfluorononanoic acid	PFNA	21	ND	ND
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid	PFOS	14	11	12
Perfluorooctanoic acid	PFOA	2	16	18
Perfluorohexanoic acid	PFHxA	560,000	17	20
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid	HFPO-DA	560	ND	ND

Along with this well, all 3 other wells that are utilized by the village were also tested for these compounds. Out of the 3 other wells, samples drawn from 1 of these resulted in PFAS chemicals being present that are equal to or below the Illinois EPA health-based Draft Guidance Levels. See table below:

PFAS Analyte	Acronym	Guidance Level (ppt)	Your Results (ppt)	
			TP03 Collected 05/26/2021	TP03 Collected 06/16/2021
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid	PFBS	2,100	ND	ND
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid	PFHxS	140	2.2	4.3
Perfluorononanoic acid	PFNA	21	ND	ND
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid	PFOS	14	ND	3.7
Perfluorooctanoic acid	PFOA	2	ND	ND
Perfluorohexanoic acid	PFHxA	560,000	ND	ND
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid	HFPO-DA	560	ND	ND

The Village is taking measures to respond to the results of this testing. As a proactive measure(s) to protect our drinking water supply, the Village is working to: monitor PFAS values through quarterly sampling; identifying which water source intake/well is affected and initiating a water quality study to determine the best course of action regarding the level of PFAS in the affected wells. **Currently, based on the sample results for TP01, the Village has made the determination to take this well offline until a proper solution is found.** We are not required to do this until an official Maximum Contamination Level is determined by the EPA, but we are taking proactive measures on our own behalf in order to set an ideal water quality standard. Updates, as they become available will be posted at Village Hall. Results can also be found on the PFAS Investigation Network Interactive Map webpage: <https://illinois-epa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/d304b513b53941c4bc1be2c2730e75cf>.

PFAS are present in many consumer goods, including food packaging and personal care products, and scientists have found values of PFAS in blood of nearly all individuals tested. Exposure to high levels of PFAS may cause adverse health effects such as increased cholesterol levels, increased risk for thyroid disease, low infant birth weights, reduced response to vaccines, pregnancy-induced hypertension and increased risk of liver and kidney cancer as seen in studies of laboratory animals. Exposure to PFAS above the recommended Draft Guidance Levels does not necessarily mean that a person will get sick or that an adverse health effect will occur. Draft Guidance Levels are conservative estimates. The possible health effects from PFAS are dependent on how much a person is exposed to and how long they are exposed to it. Exposure to PFAS above recommended Draft Guidance Levels for periods of time may mean that a person is at a greater risk of experiencing these adverse effects.

Our water may contain other PFAS at concentrations greater than or equal to the minimum reporting levels. However, neither the Illinois EPA nor the U.S. EPA currently have Draft Guidance Levels for these additional compounds.

Additional information regarding PFAS, the statewide PFAS investigation network, and the impact to public health can be found on the Illinois EPA PFAS webpage:
<https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/water-quality/pfas/Pages/default.aspx>.

The confirmed sampling results for the Village of Mt. Morris are available on Illinois EPA's Drinking Water Watch system at (see results from the Eurofins Eaton Analytical, Inc. laboratory): <http://water.epa.state.il.us/dww/index.jsp>.

If you have questions, please contact Chad Stauffer, Village of Mt. Morris Water Department – mountmorriswwtp@gmail.com – 815-734-4820.

If you would like to contact the Illinois EPA, you may reach out to:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency - Barb Lieberoff, Office of Community Relations - epa.pfas@illinois.gov - 217-524-3038

Illinois Department of Public Health - Brian Koch, Division of Environmental Health - Brian.Koch@illinois.gov - 217-782-5830