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HOW TO CONTACT MAWSS REGARDING PFAS

MOBILE, AL – Mobile Area Water & Sewer System (MAWSS) has an email address for water quality questions like PFAS. "We encourage our customers to contact us in this manner. We want to hear from you," says MAWSS Water and Sewer Director Bud McCrory. The email address is water.quality@mawss.com, which is on www.mawss.com. We will respond promptly during normal business hours. If customers want to speak with our regulatory compliance officer, they need to send their question(s) via email with their telephone number.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently issued an updated health advisory lowering the levels for LIFETIME exposure to PFOS and PFOA in drinking water. The new advisory levels are well below what were previously non-detectable levels. This notice is an advisory only and is not a regulation or law. Due to the newly announced advisory levels, recent testing of Mobile Area Water & Sewer System's drinking water shows results that are now above the EPA's nearly undetectable new 2022 advisory levels.

According to the EPA, PFAS, or Poly- and Per-Fluoroalkyl Substances, are a group of synthetic chemicals used in a wide range of consumer products and industrial applications, including non-stick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain-resistant fabrics, carpets, cosmetics, firefighting foams, electroplating, and products that resist grease, water, and oil. PFAS are found in water, air, fish, soil, animals, and humans at locations across the United States and the world. The development of these compounds started in 1940 and is ubiquitous today.

In January, MAWSS was required by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) to sample for PFOA/PFOS compounds in the finished drinking

water in the first and second quarters of 2022 and to alert the Department if the combined result was greater than 1 part per trillion. The detected range of PFOA and PFOS was 1.0 – 2.2 parts per trillion.

On ADEM's website is a list of water utilities and their measured PFOS levels. MAWSS had some of the lowest levels of these compounds in the State. Select "Drinking Water Sampling Report" at the following link to see a list of statewide utility results:
<http://adem.alabama.gov/programs/water/drinkingwater/pfasupdate.cnt>

The EPA, without prior warning, released interim health advisories of 0.004 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and 0.02 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOS on June 15. These new health advisories are based on new data and draft analysis. ADEM advised water systems with PFOA & PFOS detections to notify customers accordingly.

MAWSS provides our customers the same water provided before these new interim health advisory standards were released. In the Fall of 2022, the EPA could release preliminary primary drinking water standards so water utilities can know how to modify treatment processes to remain compliant.

Starting in 2023, the EPA requires all water systems serving over 3,300 people to participate in the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) Program, which includes testing for 29 different PFAS compounds. We will continue to modify our processes to meet the regulatory requirements of ADEM and the EPA.

Please see the EPA new Health Advisory Fact Sheet:

[Drinking Water Health Advisories for PFAS Fact Sheet for Communities - June 2022 \(epa.gov\)](#)