

The city of New Baltimore (City) wishes to inform water system customers that low levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) were detected in samples collected from the City's intake in Lake St. Clair and the water treatment plant tap in January 2018. The results are summarized in the table below.

Date	Sampling Location	PFOS parts per trillion (ppt)	PFOA (ppt)	PFOS + PFOA (ppt)	LHA (ppt)	Total of Other PFAS (ppt)
1/17/2018	Intake Line (untreated water)	0.878 J	1.71 J	2.588	70	3.157
1/17/2018	WTP Tap (treated drinking water)	0.483 J	2.05 J	2.533	70	4.764

An "ND" result means the parameter was not detected. A result qualified with a "J" means the parameter was detected below the Reporting Limit or Level of Quantification (LoQ) and should be considered estimated. Some individual PFAS compounds included in the Total of Other PFAS were also detected below the LoQ and the total should also be considered estimated.

What are Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and why are they harmful?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), sometimes called PFCs, are a group of chemicals that are resistant to heat, water, and oil. PFAS have been classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as an emerging contaminant on the national landscape. For decades, they have been used in many industrial applications and consumer products such as carpeting, waterproof clothing, upholstery, food paper wrappings, fire-fighting foams, and metal plating. They are still used today. PFAS have been found at low levels both in the environment and in blood samples of the general U.S. population.

These chemicals are persistent, which means they do not break down in the environment. They also bioaccumulate, meaning the amount builds up over time in the blood and organs. Studies in people who were exposed to PFAS found links between the chemicals and increased cholesterol, changes in the body's hormones and immune system, decreased fertility, and increased risk of certain cancers.

Are there health advisory levels?

The EPA has not established enforceable drinking water standards, called maximum contaminant levels, for these chemicals. However, EPA has set a lifetime health advisory (LHA) level in drinking water for two PFAS: perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). The PFOA and PFOS LHA is the level, or amount, **below which no harm is expected from these chemicals**. The LHA level is 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and 70 ppt for PFOS. If both PFOA and PFOS are present, the LHA is 70 ppt for the combined concentration.

The amount of PFOA and PFOS combined in the sample collected from the City's drinking water was 2.533 ppt, which is much lower than the 70 ppt LHA for the combination of these two

chemicals. There are many other PFAS compounds that currently do not have LHA levels. For information on PFOA, PFOS and other PFAS, including possible health outcomes, you may visit these websites: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>; www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfc; or http://www.michigan.gov/som/0,4669,7-192-45414_45929_83470_83473-452154--,00.html

Why was New Baltimore's drinking water tested for PFAS?

Recent testing of Lake St. Clair and the Clinton River by the DEQ reported the presence of PFAS in these waters. As a result, the DEQ recommended the City test their drinking water, and then arranged to have the samples collected and analyzed using the services of a state contractor that is sampling for PFAS throughout the state.

Who can I call if I have questions about PFAS in my drinking water?

If any resident has additional questions regarding this issue, the State of Michigan Environmental Assistance Center can be contacted at 800-662-9278. Representatives may be reached to assist with your questions Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. You may also contact the City at _____.

Is it safe to eat fish in these areas?

Wild fish samples are being collected from local lakes and rivers. These samples will be analyzed to determine the levels of PFAS in fish and make recommendations on how much is safe to eat. Some information is already available in the State of Michigan Eat Safe Fish guides, which are available at www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish.

May I bathe or swim in water containing PFAS?

Yes, PFAS does not easily absorb into the skin. It is safe to bathe, as well as do your laundry and household cleaning. It is also safe to swim in and use recreationally.

How can PFAS affect people's health?

Some scientific studies suggest that certain PFAS may affect different systems in the body. The National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH)/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is working with various partners to better understand how exposure to PFAS might affect people's health.

If you are concerned about exposure to PFAS in your drinking water, please contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Toxicology Hotline at 800-648-6942 or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/ATSDR: <https://www.cdc.gov/cdc-info/> or 800-232-4636. Currently, scientists are still learning about the health effects of exposures to PFAS, including exposure to mixtures.

What other ways could I be exposed to PFOA, PFOS and other PFAS compounds?

PFAS are used in many consumer products. They are used in food packaging, such as fast food wrappers and microwave popcorn bags; waterproof and stain resistant fabrics, such as outdoor clothing, upholstery, and carpeting; nonstick coatings on cookware; and cleaning supplies,

including some soaps and shampoos. People can be exposed to these chemicals in house dust, indoor and outdoor air, food, and drinking water. Usually the amounts of PFAS a person may be exposed to is quite small.

What is being done about this issue?

State and local agencies are actively working to obtain more information about this situation as quickly as possible. Additional testing of the drinking water will be conducted to demonstrate that the PFAS levels are consistent, and reliably below the existing LHA. Additional monitoring in and around Lake St. Clair and other affected areas will also be performed by the DEQ, which will help us answer more questions and determine next steps.

How can I stay updated on the situation?

The state has created a website where you can find information about PFAS contamination and efforts to address it in Michigan. The site will be updated as more information becomes available. The website address is <http://michigan.gov/pfasresponse>