



The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) enables the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set legal limits on the levels of specific contaminants in drinking water.

On April 10, 2024, the EPA announced national drinking water standards for PFOA and PFOS, two specific members of a group of thousands of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, PFAS for short. PFAS are widely used, completely man-made compounds that break down very slowly over time.

A person's exposure to PFAS can vary due to several factors; they've been used in millions of ways since the 1940s because of their resistance to heat, water, and stains. Teflon - the most famous PFAS - was first used on pans in 1961, starting more than 60 years of consumer use.

The EPA estimates that 80% of a typical person's PFAS exposure comes from consumer products such as cookware, cosmetics, food wrappings, stain and water-resistant clothing, and carpet and furniture treatments. They are also in Band-Aids, deodorants, contact lenses, dental floss, toilet paper, and feminine products. People can also be exposed to PFAS by eating foods containing them, especially fish.

The EPA estimates that 20% of a person's exposure to PFAS comes from drinking water. We want you to know that CEW&SA does not produce or use a single drop of PFAS in our treatment processes. PFAS can be distributed into a drinking water source through the air, rainwater, spills, or direct discharges from producers.

The EPA's drinking water standards Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for PFOA and PFOS are 4.0 ppt for each. The EPA also created standards for three other PFAS: PFNA, PFHxS, and HFPO-DA at 10.0 ppt for each.

The EPA also finalized a Hazard Index of 1.0 that creates an enforceable drinking water standard for a mixture of the three PFAS above plus another: PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and HFPO-DA (otherwise known as GenX). *For more information about how the EPA determines its drinking water standards, we invite you to visit their website at <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>*

CEW&SA has already conducted testing that revealed results lower than the EPA's drinking water standards. We are providing a range of results because PFAS test results can vary over time.

Our range of results for PFOA is non-detection to 1.5 ppt for tests conducted each quarter of 2022-2024. Our range of results for PFOS is non-detection to 1.8 ppt for tests conducted each quarter of 2022 – 2024. Only about 15% of our results showed any detection for these compounds, all of which are below the current EPA MCL.

Regarding the four PFAS compounds covered under the Hazard Index – PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and GenX – All tests resulted in a number below the Hazard Index of 1.0.

While the EPA's drinking water standards don't take effect until 2029, CEW&SA is taking the following proactive actions even being below the new standards:

- We are voluntarily testing our water quarterly to gather the best data possible to guide future decision-making. We will also participate in all required federal and state testing.
- We will continue to collaborate with our state and federal regulatory agencies regarding ongoing research and rule-making developments.
- We have chosen to take part in legal action that seeks to compensate CEW&SA for our PFAS-related efforts.
- We will continue openly communicating about PFAS. We encourage our customers to visit our Facebook or webpage on PFAS at <https://cewsa.com/publicnotice.htm> regularly for the latest developments.
- Even though we are below the current standards, we are examining future strategies to address PFAS effectively through our treatment processes as needed.

In addition, CEW&SA is one of thousands of water providers across the country to test for PFOA, PFOS, PFBS, PFNA, PFHxS, HFPO-DA, and 23 other PFAS compounds under the EPA's Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, also known as UCMR 5.

UMCR 5 testing gives the EPA and water providers a greater understanding of how pervasive PFAS are in our nation's drinking water. In 2023, we tested for the 29 compounds and the results were sent to the EPA by our state regulatory agency. Those results can be found in this year's Consumer Confidence Report and on our website.

CEW&SA and the regulatory agencies have reviewed our UCMR 5 results to determine no additional actions are necessary at this time. CEW&SA is committed to providing safe, reliable drinking water in a way that protects public health. We will continue to operate as we always have, as a protector of public health that delivers high-quality drinking water to your taps.

Chadwick E. Shaw, P.E.  
CEW&SA General Manager