

PFOS/PFOA Response Measures

The Water Resources Department has been very proactive in our efforts to investigate the source of Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and research ways to address the presence of this contaminant of emerging concern in the city's water supply watershed. To date, the Water Resources Department has advanced a comprehensive and aggressive response to PFAS contamination in the city's drinking water supply. Specific measures include:

- In August of 2018, as a very precautionary measure, curtailed the distribution of water from the Mitchell Water Treatment plant and increased the supply of water from other sources until sampling results confirmed levels dropped below the health advisory level.
- Completed a comprehensive watershed investigation that started in 2016 to identify the sources of PFAS contamination. Field investigations identified the industrial area surrounding and including PTI as the likely source of PFAS contamination. It was determined that a significant contributor was use of PFOS-containing firefighting foam for training and emergency response activities;
- Held meetings with business stakeholders in the area where PFOS and PFOA were found to solicit their assistance in preventing additional (uncontrolled) releases to the environment;
- The Department began voluntary quarterly testing in 2016 as part of the field investigation work. Monthly water testing began in May 2018 and weekly water quality testing began in August August 2018. The reports can be found [online](#).
- Developed and implemented an operational response protocol to used Powered Activated Carbon (PAC) in the event the health advisory level is exceeded;
- Completed pilot-scale testing of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) treatment which demonstrated excellent potential for removing PFOS and PFOA from the city's water
- Identified funding and timing for constructing permanent treatment upgrades at the Mitchell Water Plant that address PFOS and PFOA;using Granulated Activated Carbon (GAC)