



CITY OF CENTRAL CITY WATER DEPARTMENT

PFAS Informational Report

March 9, 2022

WHAT IS PFAS AND WHY AM I HEARING ABOUT IT

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has recently begun performing a statewide sampling initiative looking to determine the prevalence of a class of chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly referred to by the acronym “PFAS.” This is a huge class of manmade compounds that includes more than 5,000 individual chemicals. PFAS compounds have been used extensively for more than 70 years in applications such as: non-stick coatings; stain-resistant carpeting; water-repelling clothing and fabrics; paper packaging for food; and metal plating operations. The most abundant use, and the most common source of drinking water contamination, comes from PFAS uses in aqueous fire-fighting foams (AFFF’s). There is emerging scientific data indicating that in high enough concentrations, PFAS can pose a health risk, especially to developing fetuses and breastfed infants. Additional information may be found at <https://www.iowadnr.gov/idnr/Environmental-Protection/PFAS>.

PFAS IN CENTRAL CITY

The IDNR tested one of the two Central City public wells on February 7, 2022. This test showed a level below the EPA’s Lifetime Health Advisory limit of 70 parts per trillion (or .00007 parts per million). The IDNR dictates the action the City must take when PFAS is detected and informed the City that no public health notice is required. The City is required to begin monitoring PFAS levels with testing beginning in the second quarter of 2022, or sometime between April 1st and June 30th of 2022. As this is a new testing protocol of the IDNR, and as more information is made available, we will update the public.

WHAT HOMEOWNERS CAN DO

There are some home filters that customers could use. A study performed by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services found two classes of home filters that can be effective at removing PFAS compounds. Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filters can be effective, as long as the customer regularly replaced the carbon filters at the interval recommended by the filter manufacturer. Reverse Osmosis (RO) systems can also be quite effective. But RO systems tend to waste two to four gallons for every gallon treated, so their use should be limited to points where water is used for drinking. The National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) maintains a listing of products that claim to remove PFOA and PFOS compounds on their website <https://info.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU/>.