



Marshfield Utilities PFAS Update

For Immediate Release

February 14, 2022

(Marshfield, WI) –Marshfield Utilities (MU)

Marshfield Utilities takes the role of protecting public health by providing safe drinking water to our community very seriously. Our drinking water is closely regulated by both the EPA and DNR and it meets strict Federal and State drinking water standards. Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances (PFAS) is an emerging contaminant and the EPA and DNR are currently developing regulations for PFAS. PFAS is a group of thousands of compounds invented in the 1930's and is used in everything from food packaging and cookware to upholstery, clothing and firefighting foam. The chemicals do not break down in the environment and are commonly found in dust, air, soil and water. Currently, there is a considerable amount of research being completed to determine how exposure to different PFAS may lead to a variety of health effects.

In 2016, Marshfield Utilities completed PFAS testing as part of the EPA UCMR 3 (Third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule). All three entry points of MU's system were tested and the test results were no detects of PFAS at that time. The research and technology used to test for PFAS continues to advance. This allows for the presence of more compounds to be tested for at even lower concentration levels (part per trillion, ppt).

Last week, Gov. Tony Evers announced a Voluntary Drinking Water PFAS Sampling Project for Municipal Systems. Marshfield Utilities has already reached out to the DNR to determine how we can participate in this voluntary sampling program and ensure we are providing safe and healthy water to our community. Once this voluntary sampling has been completed, the results will be shared with the community. More information can be found at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS/PWSampling> on the sampling program.

The following resources provide additional information on PFAS:

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>

Centers for Disease Control (CDC): https://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/PFAS_FactSheet.html

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR): <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Marshfield Utilities at 715-898-2188 or pfa@marshfieldutilities.org.

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Marshfield Utilities is a forward-looking stakeholder-focused organization providing reliable and safe services to our customers while providing value and enhancing quality of life in the community. For more information, please visit www.marshfieldutilities.org or look for us on <https://www.facebook.com/marshfieldutilities/>.

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