



Stoughton Utilities

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Serving Electric, Water & Wastewater Since 1886

News Release

Stoughton Utilities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Stoughton Utilities PFAS Concentrations Well Below Recommended Limits

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) is conducting a statewide investigation into the occurrence of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in drinking water at select municipal drinking water suppliers in Wisconsin this year. Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WDHS) has issued health based drinking water advisory level recommendations for 12 individual PFAS compounds and a combined value for 6 additional compounds.

Stoughton Utilities voluntarily took part in this investigation by conducting early sampling of its drinking water for PFAS. Stoughton Utilities decided to sample for PFAS prior to any regulatory requirement to proactively assess the potential impacts of PFAS in the drinking water, and to quickly take steps to protect the health of our customers if needed.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are man-made chemicals that have been widely used in a variety of products since the 1950's. PFAS do not break down in the environment and can be found in air, soil, fish, and water. Scientists are still learning about the health effects that various PFAS can have on the body. To date, studies among people have shown that high levels of certain PFAS can increase cholesterol levels, decrease antibody levels in response to vaccines, and decrease fertility in women.

It is not uncommon to find low levels of PFAS in drinking water supplies, as PFAS can be found in fire-fighting foams, stain repellants, nonstick cookware, waterproof clothing, food wrappers, and are used in many industrial processes.

Stoughton Utilities' test results can be found on the WDNR PFAS Sampling Project Page at <https://dnr.wi.gov/dwsviewer/ContamResult>. The results show that PFAS compounds were detected in only one of Stoughton's four wells at concentrations 93.3% lower than the maximum contaminant levels outlined in Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 809, Safe Drinking Water Standards.

Specific health information regarding PFAS compounds with health advisory recommendations in WI can be found here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/gws-cycle11.htm>.

Additional health information regarding PFAS can be found here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm>

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Founded in 1886, Stoughton Utilities serves electric customers in Stoughton and the surrounding area; and wastewater and water customers in Stoughton.