



## **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 sampled one of the two Central City public wells on February 7, 2022. Results were shared with the City on March 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 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> 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/>.

# **CITY OF CENTRAL CITY WATER DEPARTMENT**

## **PFAS Informational Report**

**Updated March 14, 2022**

### IS CENTRAL CITY WATER SAFE TO DRINK?

The city received the initial results from the IDNR on March 7, 2022 indicating the City's water is safe to drink. This first test showed a combined Total PFOA and PFOS of 62 parts per trillion, a level below the EPA's Lifetime Health Advisory limit of 70 parts per trillion (or .00007 parts per million). The IDNR has instructed the City to begin quarterly monitoring of the City's drinking water.

### WHERE DOES PFAS COME FROM?

PFAS can be present in our water, soil, air, and food as well as in materials found in our homes or workplaces, including:

- Drinking water – in public drinking water systems and private drinking water wells.
- Soil and water at or near waste sites - at landfills, disposal sites, and hazardous waste sites such as those that fall under the federal Superfund and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act programs.
- Fire extinguishing foam - in aqueous film-forming foams (or AFFFs) used to extinguish flammable liquid-based fires. Such foams are used in training and emergency response events at airports, shipyards, military bases, firefighting training facilities, chemical plants, and refineries.
- Manufacturing or chemical production facilities that produce or use PFAS – for example at chrome plating, electronics, and certain textile and paper manufacturers.
- Food – for example in fish caught from water contaminated by PFAS and dairy products from livestock exposed to PFAS.
- Food packaging – for example in grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes, and candy wrappers.
- Household products and dust – for example in stain and water-repellent used on carpets, upholstery, clothing, and other fabrics; cleaning products; non-stick cookware; paints, varnishes, and sealants.
- Personal care products – for example in certain shampoo, dental floss, and cosmetics.
- Biosolids – for example fertilizer from wastewater treatment plants that is used on agricultural lands can affect ground and surface water and animals that graze on the land.