



March 2, 2023

Subject: Important information about PFAS and your drinking water

Dear Customer,

The Eagle River Water & Sanitation District (district) and the Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority (authority) are committed to providing safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water to our customers. As part of this commitment, we have been voluntarily testing your drinking water for a group of man-made chemicals of growing concern known as PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). Water sample results received in January 2023 showed that certain PFAS chemicals, Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS), are present in some of our drinking water sources.

These compounds are currently unregulated. However, on Jun. 15, 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set new lower lifetime health advisories for four PFAS compounds in drinking water. A health advisory is intended to raise awareness, provide guidance, and foster local and state response before the EPA develops a regulation.

This is a concern, not a crisis. People do not need to stop drinking their water. Thousands of water providers across the United States are detecting PFAS chemicals in drinking water sources at concentrations above the lower health advisory levels. This notice details our PFAS testing results and actions you should consider. We are working closely with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to address PFAS in our drinking water and reduce detectable levels in our water supply.

What are PFAS?

PFAS are a group of over 5,000 man-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1940s. There are thousands of PFAS chemicals in products including ski wax, nonstick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain-resistant textiles, cosmetics, and firefighting foams.

These compounds are widespread and do not break down over time, and therefore can get into our water, soil, air, and food during production and use. Concerns over human health impacts began to surface in the early 2000s, and although manufacturing of some of these compounds have been phased out, their resistance to degradation allows them to persist in the environment and build up in the human body. People can be exposed to PFAS through product use or environmental exposure, including contaminated source water that enters the drinking water supply.

What are the health advisory levels for PFAS and what do they mean?

The EPA established a health advisory level for PFOA and PFOS in 2016 at 70 parts per trillion (ppt). On Jun. 15, 2022, the EPA lowered these health advisory levels for PFOA to 0.004 ppt and PFOS to 0.02 ppt. These levels for PFOA and PFOS are so low they are below current detection abilities of analytical equipment, which can currently accurately measure PFAS compounds at approximately 2 ppt.

The EPA sets Health Advisory Levels to the minimum concentration of a compound that may present health risks over a lifetime of exposure. These health advisories are established based on human studies in populations exposed to PFAS and are set to protect all people, including sensitive populations and life

stages (such as infants), from negative health impacts as a result of lifetime exposure to PFAS in drinking water.

There is strong evidence that PFOA and PFOS impact the immune system, increase cholesterol, decrease infant birth weight, and cause changes in liver function. There is moderate evidence that PFAS compounds are associated with preeclampsia and high blood pressure during pregnancy and causes effects on thyroid hormones. There is also evidence that PFOA increases the risk of kidney and testicular cancer.

Children ages 0-5 years, and people who are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding are more susceptible to health impacts from these chemicals. Visit <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/pfas-health> for more information.

What are the PFAS levels in my water?

The district and authority's drinking water distribution systems are interconnected, allowing for water transfer throughout the service area. The drinking water delivered to your tap can come from one or more of our treatment facilities. Our most current testing for PFOA and PFOS show the following results:

Public Water System	General Service Area	Treatment Facility	PFAS Compound	Detected level (parts per trillion)	Interim health advisory level (parts per trillion)	
Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority (CO0119786)	Avon	Avon Drinking Water Facility	PFOA	0.75*	0.004	
			PFOS	0.46*	0.02	
	Edwards	Edwards Drinking Water Facility	PFOA	0.90*	0.004	
			PFOS	0.64*	0.02	
			Berry Creek Wells	PFOA	0.50*	0.004
				PFOS	2.5	0.02
	Edwards Well	PFOA	0.62*	0.004		
		PFOS	1.1*	0.02		
	Cordillera	Fenno Wells	PFOA	Not Detected	0.004	
			PFOS	Not Detected	0.02	
Eagle River Water & Sanitation District (CO0119802)	East Vail	Gore Valley Drinking Water Facility	PFOA	Not Detected	0.004	
			PFOS	Not Detected	0.02	
	Core Vail	Well R-7	PFOA	Not Detected	0.004	
			PFOS	Not Detected	0.02	
		Well R-1	PFOA	Not Detected	0.004	
			PFOS	Not Detected	0.02	
		Well R-2/R-6	PFOA	Not Detected	0.004	
			PFOS	Not Detected	0.02	
	Well R-4	PFOA	Not Detected	0.004		
		PFOS	Not Detected	0.02		
West Vail	Well West Vail 7&8	PFOA	2.9	0.004		
		PFOS	1.5*	0.02		

* Result is less than the laboratory reporting limit and therefore is an estimated value.

What actions should I consider to reduce my exposure?

You do not need to stop using tap water. People who are concerned can reduce exposure from drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula by using water treated by an in-home water treatment filter that is certified to lower the levels of PFAS, or use water that has been treated with reverse osmosis. Use tap water for bathing, showering, brushing teeth, washing hands, watering yards, washing dishes, cleaning, and laundry. Boiling, freezing, or letting water stand does not reduce PFAS levels.

EPA and CDPHE do not recommend bottled water because CDPHE cannot verify that all bottled water is below PFAS interim health advisories. If you choose to use bottled water, CDPHE recommends choosing a brand that has been treated with reverse osmosis and includes this language on the bottle. Reverse osmosis is a treatment that removes PFAS.

If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. An information sheet, "Talking to Your Health Care Provider about PFAS," is available at <https://bit.ly/PFAS-doctor>. You can also reduce exposure by reducing your use of household and everyday products that contain PFAS. To learn more, visit <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/pfas-health>.

What is the district and authority doing to address PFAS?

Public health and providing high quality drinking water is our top priority. The district and authority's drinking water has and continues to meet all federal and state Primary Drinking Water Standards. We are partnering with CDPHE to continue to assess PFAS levels in our source and treated drinking water through additional testing and evaluation, researching emerging treatment methods to reduce PFAS levels through comprehensive master planning, and protecting our source water from additional pollution. As we learn more, we will continue to update our customers with our ongoing PFAS monitoring data and response to this issue on our website.

For additional information regarding PFAS in drinking water and health information, visit <http://cdphe.colorado.gov/pfas-health> or <http://www.epa.gov/pfas>. Contact district customer service with any questions or concerns at 970-477-5451 or customerservice@erwsd.org.

Please share this information with other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, tenants, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in public places or by distributing copies by hand.