

Information Regarding Drinking Water Health Advisory Level Exceedance for PFOA/PFOS

Calhoun Utilities

June 2022

On June 15, 2022, EPA issued interim updated drinking water health advisories for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) that replaces the health advisories issued by EPA in 2016. The updated advisory levels, which are based on new science and consider lifetime exposure, indicate that some negative health effects may occur with concentrations of PFOA or PFOS in water that are near zero. These interim health advisories will remain in place until EPA establishes a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation. PFOA & PFOS has been detected in Calhoun's water supply, and has been below the prior health advisory levels until they were updated in June 2022.

At the same time, EPA also issued final health advisories for two additional chemicals, PFBS & Gen X. PFBS can be found in Calhoun's water supply, but the levels are currently below the health advisory level. Gen X has not been detected in Calhoun's water supply.

Calhoun Utilities has been actively monitoring the status of the health advisories and the concentration of PFOA & PFOS in Calhoun's drinking water for years. Below is a brief timeline showing milestones related to PFOA & PFOS in Gordon County.



PFOA & PFOS were widely used to make carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food and other materials that are resistant to water, grease or stains. They were also used for firefighting at airfields and in a number of industrial processes. Many of these uses were phased out by U.S. manufacturers in the mid-2000s but some uses remain. GenX chemicals are replacements for PFOA, and PFBS is a replacement for PFOS. Most people have been exposed to these chemicals through consumer products but drinking water can be an additional source of exposure in communities where these chemicals have contaminated water supplies.

While these health advisories are not enforceable limits, Calhoun Utilities is actively working towards long and short term treatment solutions to reduce or remove these chemicals from our drinking water. Along with treatment solutions, we are pursuing grant funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to help aid in the cost of this treatment. Calhoun Utilities is providing this information so that our customers can make informed choices regarding the health and safety for themselves and their families.

Customers that have concerns about the current levels of PFOA & PFOS found in their drinking water should consider actions that may reduce exposure. More information regarding steps you can take to reduce your risk can be found on the EPA website at: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/meaningful-and-achievable-steps-you-can-take-reduce-your-risk>

Additional information regarding PFOA & PFOS and the current EPA health advisory is available at the following links:

EPA's Drinking Water Health Advisories

<https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>

EPA's Health Advisories Q&A

<https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/questions-and-answers-drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-pfos-genx-chemicals-and-pfbs>

Ga EPD PFOA & PFOS Story Map with Recorded Levels by Location

<https://gaepd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=e8f2c6a51c1c41088002350f1eabe598>