



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

2520 WEST ILES AVENUE, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276 • (217) 782-3397
JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR JAMES JENNINGS, ACTING DIRECTOR

April 14, 2025

Galesburg Community Water System
Attn: Peter Schwartzman
P.O. Box 1387
Galesburg, IL 61401

Re: Bureau of Water ID: W0950200004
Galesburg Community Water System
IL0950200/Knox
Right-to-Know File Code 02A

Dear Peter Schwartzman:

Notice is hereby issued by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) pursuant to the Environmental Protection Act, 415 ILCS 5/25d-3(a)(2)(B), to the owner and operator of the Galesburg Community Water System (CWS). One or more Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in the table below have been detected in the Galesburg CWS at levels exceeding 35 Illinois Administrative Code Part 620 Class I (potable) groundwater quality standards.

PFAS Analyte	Acronym	Analytical Result (ng/L*)	Class I Groundwater Quality Standard (ng/L*)
Perfluorooctanoic acid	PFOA	5.9	4
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid	PFOS	N/A	4
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid	PFHxS	N/A	10

*Equivalent to parts per trillion

Within five (5) business days of receiving this letter, the owner or operator of the Galesburg CWS must send to all residents and owners of premises connected to the Galesburg CWS one of the following:

1. **A copy of this letter including the attached Public Health Notice** by first-class mail or by email; or
2. **Notification, in a form approved by the Illinois EPA**, by first-class postcard, text message, or telephone.

The front of the envelope or postcard in which any notice is sent to residents and owners of premises connected to the Galesburg CWS shall carry the following text in at least 18-point font: PUBLIC HEALTH NOTICE - READ IMMEDIATELY.

2125 S. First Street, Champaign, IL 61820 (217) 278-5800
115 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 2203, Chicago, IL 60603
1101 Eastport Plaza Dr., Suite 100, Collinsville, IL 62234 (618) 346-5120
9511 Harrison Street, Des Plaines, IL 60016 (847) 294-4000

595 S. State Street, Elgin, IL 60123 (847) 608-3131
2309 W. Main Street, Suite 116, Marion, IL 62959 (618) 993-7200
412 SW Washington Street, Suite D, Peoria, IL 61602 (309) 671-3022
4302 N. Main Street, Rockford, IL 61103 (815) 987-7760

Notices sent to institutional residents (e.g., school dormitories, nursing homes, assisted care facilities) may be made to the owners and operators of those institutions, and the owner or operator of those institutions shall notify their residents using one of the two options listed above.

If the owner or operator of the Galesburg CWS selects Option 2 (notification by first-class postcard, text message, or telephone):

- a. The notification must identify the contaminant posing the threat, the level of contaminant found, and possible human health effects associated with exposure to the contaminant; and
- b. A copy of this letter including the attached Public Health Notice must be included in the next water bill sent to all residents and owners of premises connected to the Galesburg CWS. However, if the water bill is sent on a postcard, it is not required to include a copy of this letter including the attached Public Health Notice if the postcard includes the internet address for the notice documents posted on the Illinois EPA website: <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/drinking-water/public-water-users/notices.html>.

Within seven (7) calendar days after the owner or operator of the Galesburg CWS notifies residents and owners of premises connected to the Galesburg CWS, the Illinois EPA must be provided with proof that the notices have been sent. Proof of notification may be sent to the Illinois EPA by email at Jeff.Guy@illinois.gov or submitted by mail to the Illinois EPA, attention Jeff Guy, Office of Community Relations, 2520 West Iles Avenue, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62974-9276.

Proof of notification must include a copy of the notice, date of notification, number of end users and institutions notified, photographs (e.g., stacked envelopes or postcards, filled mail totes/boxes, etc.), and copies of receipts for postage and mailing transactions. For each institution, proof of notification must also include the institution name, phone number, street address, contact person, number of residents, and the institution's communication plan (e.g., notices received with daily mail, by email, placed in each resident's door, etc.).

Failure to provide notification to all residents and owners of premises connected to the Galesburg CWS pursuant to 415 ILCS 5/25d-3(a)(2)(B) of the Act may result in a civil penalty of up to \$5.00 for each premise connected to the CWS for each day of violation [415 ILCS 5/42(b)(6)]. Additionally, any person who knowingly makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement to the Illinois EPA, orally or in writing, commits a Class 4 felony. A second or subsequent offense after conviction is a Class 3 felony [415 ILCS 5/44(h)].

If you have questions or require further information, please contact Jeff Guy, Illinois EPA Office of Community Relations, by phone at (217) 785-8724 or by email at Jeff.Guy@illinois.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'JJ', with a large, sweeping loop on the left side.

James Jennings
Acting Director

Attachment: Public Health Notice



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PUBLIC HEALTH NOTICE - READ IMMEDIATELY

Why am I receiving this notice?

One or more Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) have been detected in your Community Water System at levels exceeding 35 Illinois Administrative Code Part 620 Class I (potable) groundwater quality standards.

What are PFAS?

PFAS are synthetic chemicals manufactured for their oil- and water-resistant properties. PFAS use is widespread. PFAS have been used in industrial processes since the 1940s and are in many everyday consumer products (food packaging, non-stick cookware, carpet, upholstery, clothing, and cosmetics).

How does PFAS enter the environment?

PFAS can enter the environment, including groundwater, through various pathways, including spills, leaks, and the disposal of products containing PFAS, as well as through industrial processes and waste-water treatment plants. Current scientific literature indicates that people are most exposed to PFAS by ingesting contaminated food and water. PFAS does not have any taste, color, or odor in drinking water.

How does PFAS impact human health?

PFAS can build up in the human body over time. According to the U.S. EPA, current peer-reviewed scientific studies have identified adverse health effects from exposure to PFAS that may include:

- reproductive effects such as decreased fertility and high blood pressure in pregnant women;
- developmental effects in children such as a low birth weight;
- increased risks of developing certain types of cancer including prostate, kidney, and testicular cancers;
- reduced ability of the body's immune system to fight infections including reduced vaccine response;
- interference with the body's natural hormones;
- increased risk of thyroid disease; and
- increased cholesterol levels and/or risk of obesity.

Exposure to PFAS does not necessarily mean that a person will experience any adverse health effects. The possible health effects from PFAS depend on numerous factors, including how much a person is exposed, so it is important to minimize PFAS exposure.

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What can be done to address PFAS exposure?

PFAS can be removed from drinking water with in-home treatment technologies, such as carbon filtration and reverse osmosis. Carbon filters can be installed at the point-of-use, such as your kitchen faucet or refrigerator, or the point-of-entry to your home. Carbon filters are also available with filtered water pitchers. Likewise, reverse osmosis systems can be installed under your kitchen sink to treat water primarily used for drinking or cooking. In-home treatment may not always reduce PFAS below levels of concern, as the effectiveness of treatment is largely based on the amount of PFAS contamination and continued maintenance of the treatment system.

Are Community Water Systems required to address PFAS?

Yes. Federal law requires that all Community Water Systems take action to meet PFAS drinking water standards by April 26, 2029.

Where can I obtain additional information about PFAS?

Further PFAS resources, including additional information on health effects and ways to reduce exposure, are available on the Illinois EPA PFAS webpage at <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/pfas.html>.

Confirmed sampling results for your Community Water System are available on the Illinois EPA Drinking Water Watch system at <http://water.epa.state.il.us/dww/index.jsp> and on the U.S. EPA website at <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-data-finder#data-finder>. If you have questions or would like more information about your water quality, please contact your water provider.



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AVISO DE SALUD PÚBLICA - LEA INMEDIATAMENTE

¿Por qué recibí este aviso?

Se han detectado una o más sustancias perfluoroalquiladas y polifluoroalquiladas (PFAS) en su sistema de agua comunitaria a niveles que superan los estándares de calidad del agua subterránea (potable) del Código Administrativo de Illinois, Parte 620, Clase I.

¿Qué son las PFAS?

Las PFAS son productos químicos sintéticos fabricados por sus propiedades resistentes al aceite y al agua. Las PFAS son omnipresentes. Las PFAS se han utilizado en procesos industriales desde la década de 1940 y se encuentran en muchos productos de consumo cotidiano (envases de alimentos, utensilios de cocina antiadherentes (non-stick), alfombras, tapicería, ropa y cosméticos).

¿Cómo entran las PFAS al medio ambiente?

Las PFAS pueden ingresar al medio ambiente, incluidas las aguas subterráneas, por una variedad de vías, incluidos derrames, fugas y la eliminación de productos que contienen PFAS, así como a través de procesos industriales y plantas de tratamiento de aguas residuales. La literatura científica actual indica que las personas están más expuestas a las PFAS al ingerir alimentos y agua contaminados. Las PFAS no tienen sabor, color ni olor en el agua potable.

¿Cómo afectan las PFAS a la salud humana?

Las PFAS pueden acumularse en el cuerpo humano con el tiempo. Según la EPA de EE. UU., los estudios científicos actuales revisados por pares han identificado efectos adversos a la salud por la exposición a PFAS que pueden incluir:

- efectos reproductivos como disminución de la fertilidad y presión arterial alta en mujeres embarazadas;
- efectos al desarrollo de los niños como bajo peso al nacer;
- mayor riesgo de desarrollar ciertos tipos de cáncer, incluidos los cánceres de próstata, riñón y testículos;
- reducción de la capacidad del sistema inmunitario del cuerpo para combatir las infecciones, incluida la reducción de la respuesta a las vacunas;
- interferencia con las hormonas naturales del cuerpo;
- mayor riesgo de enfermedad tiroidea; y
- Aumento de los niveles de colesterol y/o riesgo de obesidad.

La exposición a las PFAS no significa necesariamente que una persona vaya a experimentar efectos adversos a su salud. Los posibles efectos sobre la salud de las PFAS dependen de numerosos factores, incluido el grado de exposición, por lo que es importante minimizar la exposición a las PFAS.

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¿Qué se puede hacer para abordar la exposición a las PFAS?

Las PFAS se pueden eliminar del agua potable con tecnologías de tratamiento en el hogar, como la filtración de carbono y la ósmosis inversa. Los filtros de carbón se pueden instalar en el punto de uso, como en la llave de agua o en el refrigerador, o en el punto de entrada a su hogar. También hay filtros de carbón con jarras de agua filtrada. Del mismo modo, los sistemas de ósmosis inversa se pueden instalar debajo del fregadero de la cocina para tratar el agua utilizada principalmente para beber o cocinar. Es posible que el tratamiento en el hogar no siempre reduzca las PFAS por debajo de los niveles preocupantes, ya que la eficacia del tratamiento se basa en gran medida en la cantidad de contaminación por PFAS y el mantenimiento continuo del sistema de tratamiento.

¿Es necesario que los sistemas de agua comunitarios aborden las PFAS?

Sí. La ley federal requiere que todos los sistemas de agua comunitarios tomen medidas para cumplir con los estándares de agua potable PFAS antes del 26 de abril de 2029.

¿Dónde puedo obtener información adicional sobre las PFAS?

Más recursos sobre PFAS, incluida información adicional sobre los efectos en la salud y las formas de reducir la exposición, están disponibles en la página web de PFAS de la EPA de Illinois en <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/pfas.html>.

Los resultados confirmados de muestreo para su sistema de agua comunitaria están disponibles en el sistema de Vigilancia de Agua Potable de la EPA de Illinois (Illinois EPA Drinking Water Watch) en <http://water.epa.state.il.us/dww/index.jsp> y en el sitio web de la EPA de EE. UU. en <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-data-finder#data-finder>. Si tiene preguntas o desea obtener más información sobre la calidad de su agua, comuníquese con su proveedor de agua.