



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
LANSING



C. HEIDI GREYER  
DIRECTOR

August 9, 2018

VIA E-MAIL

«SCHOOL\_WATER\_SUPPLY\_NAME»  
«ADDRESS\_LINE\_1»  
«ADDRESS\_LINE\_2»  
«CITY», «STATE» «Zipcode»

WSSN: «WSSN»

Dear School Administrator and Drinking Water Operator:

SUBJECT: «SCHOOL\_WATER\_SUPPLY\_NAME»  
Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

As you may be aware, the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) has undertaken a proactive effort to investigate sources and locations of PFAS contamination in Michigan, to protect our drinking water, and to inform the public about PFAS. This involves the work of ten state departments, in coordination with local and federal officials.

One vital piece of this effort is the ongoing collaboration between the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and our water supply partners. It is through your generous participation that we are able to set and achieve our goal: to proactively test all community water supplies and schools that are classified as non-transient non-community water supplies for PFAS contamination. Once complete, this study will be an invaluable tool in determining the extent of PFAS in Michigan's drinking water, and empowering the MPART in the pursuit of their mission. We thank you for your continuing partnership, collaboration, and dedication to the residents of our great state.

This letter is intended to provide the results of PFAS analyses in samples collected from the «SCHOOL\_WATER\_SUPPLY\_NAME», WSSN #«WSSN» (water supply) on the date(s) indicated below.

The table below summarizes the sampling results. A copy of the laboratory report is enclosed for your review. The concentrations of perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) were greater than the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Lifetime Health Advisory (LHA) of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) at the time of sample collection.

Date Collected	Sampling Location	PFOS + PFOA (ppt)	LHA (ppt) PFOS + PFOA	Total Tested PFAS (ppt)
«Testing_Date_1»	«Sampling_Location_1»	«PFOSPFOA_value_1»	70	«Total_Testing_PFAS_value_1»
«Testing_Date_2»	«Sampling_Location_2»	«PFOSPFOA_value_2»	70	«Total_Testing_PFAS_value_2»

ND – The parameter was not detected based on the laboratory’s analytical report. See Official lab results for test method used.

The following actions should be taken **immediately**:

1. Minimize public exposure to the extent possible. The water supply should evaluate options to accomplish this goal, including an assessment of treatment options. The water supply should also evaluate new treatment methods that could reduce PFAS, with a cost/benefit analysis.

The MDEQ offers their immediate assistance in the form of:

- Technical assistance with design and installation of treatment technology.
- Technical assistance with removal of the source of contaminated water from operation, if feasible; place the water source on standby, if possible.
- Technical assistance with evaluating alternatives to replace the lost capacity of the contaminated water source.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) offers their immediate assistance in the form of:

- Coordinating with the local health department regarding the results and providing educational materials.
- Coordinating with health care providers regarding the results and providing educational materials.

2. The MDEQ requires the water supply to inform the public of these sample results through posting on your website or other means as soon as possible. The MDEQ, in collaboration with the MDHHS, has developed a toolkit containing communication templates to help notify school staff, students, and parents on the presence of PFAS in the drinking water and the response measures that are being initiated. This is a resource available to you if you choose and can be modified to fit your needs. The toolkit is available at [www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse](http://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse) and click on “visit news and education.”

While you take the required steps to protect the water supply, the MDEQ will immediately take a confirmation sample from the water supply and expedite the results. The MDEQ will also begin actions to investigate the source of the PFAS contamination.

The MDEQ asks the [School Water Supply Name], WSSN #[WSSN] to respond within 90 days from the date of this correspondence, identifying a plan with an accompanying timeline to minimize exposure and address this contamination, which may include placing the contaminated source on standby, hiring a consultant, finding a new water source, and installing treatment. The MDEQ is available to meet with you to answer questions, discuss options, and share what other water systems in similar circumstances have implemented.

At the time of sending this letter, the MDEQ has already implemented the communications plan with you; the water supply; the Governor's office; legislators for the area; and local officials.

The concentrations of PFOS and PFOA in this sample were above the USEPA LHA. According to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), some, but not all, studies in humans with drinking water levels well above the LHA for extended periods of time have shown that certain PFAS may: affect the developing fetus and child including possible changes in growth, learning, and behavior; decrease fertility; interfere with the body's natural hormones; increase cholesterol; affect the immune system; and increase cancer risk. For more information about PFAS-related health effects, visit [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas).

Currently, there is no regulatory drinking water standard for any of the PFAS chemicals. However, in May 2016 the USEPA established a non-regulatory LHA for two of these chemicals, PFOS and PFOA. The LHA for PFOS and PFOA is 70 ppt combined, or individually if only one of them is present. The USEPA recommends that this LHA applies to both short-term (i.e., weeks to months) scenarios during pregnancy and lactation, as well as to lifetime-exposure scenarios. The LHA is the level, or amount, below which no harm is expected from these chemicals. The MDHHS, as well as the MDEQ, have used this LHA of 70 ppt to inform decisions on actions that should be taken or are recommended to reduce exposure and prevent increased risk to public health from these PFAS contaminants. The USEPA has not set health advisory levels for the other PFAS compounds because not enough is known about them.

Your water supply may have returned results greater than a non-detect (ND) for the total amount of PFAS (other than PFOA and PFOS) analytes tested for. Neither the MDEQ nor the USEPA have any guidance values for these other analytes at this time. If additional guidance and/or comparison values are developed for PFOS, PFOA, or other PFAS chemicals in the future, we may reevaluate this water supply.

As part of the MDEQ's proactive statewide sampling initiative, the results of this sampling will be posted online on the MPART website within 48 hours of this notification. The results can be found online by going to the MPART website address listed below, and by clicking on "Michigan PFAS Sites," and scrolling down and selecting "Public Water Supply Information." We urge you to inform your consumers as soon as possible. If you need assistance, please contact me.

For information on PFOS, PFOA and other PFAS, including possible health outcomes, you may visit these websites:

- **State of Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART)** website serving as the main resource for public information on PFAS contamination in Michigan:  
[www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse](http://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse)
- **United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)** website including basic information, USEPA actions, and links to informational resources:  
[www.epa.gov/pfas](http://www.epa.gov/pfas)
- **Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)** website including health information, exposure, and links to additional resources:  
[www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas)

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Thank you once again for your continued collaboration with this investigation. The ongoing partnership between the MDEQ and Michigan's public water supplies plays an integral role in the state's continued efforts to ascertain and address the incidence of PFAS in drinking water for Michiganders.

If you have any questions concerning this sampling, please contact me at the telephone number below; by email at [DEQ-PFAS-DrinkingWater@michigan.gov](mailto:DEQ-PFAS-DrinkingWater@michigan.gov); or by mail at DEQ-DWMAD, P.O. Box 30817, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8311.

Sincerely,

*(Insert name and title)*

Enclosure

cc: «Local\_Health\_Department»  
*(Insert name and title)*, Drinking Water Unit, MDHHS  
*(Insert name and title)* DEQ

SAMPLE