

MDHHS Water Data Evaluation – Resolute Forest Products Fire, Menominee

October 14, 2022

Background

On October 6, 2022, a large fire started at Resolute Forest Products located at 701 4th Ave in Menominee, MI. The fire spread to the adjoining Tyco Fire Products facility which houses firefighting foam. MDHHS has partnered with local, state, and federal agencies to respond to the incident. On October 13, the Michigan governor declared a state of emergency for Menominee County.

The Resolute Forest Products warehouse is located along the Menominee River near the inlet to Lake Michigan. Due to water runoff from the fire and the presence of chemicals stored in the affected buildings, there is potential that chemicals, including PFAS, may have been released to the river and lake. The water intake for the Menominee water treatment facility is located in Lake Michigan approximately three miles north of the site. The water treatment facility does not have the capacity to remove PFAS from the water.

Unified Command agencies have conducted surface water sampling and sampling of raw and treated water at the treatment plant.

Data Evaluation

MDHHS reviewed the following water data reported through noon on 10/14/2022.

Table 1. Water samples collected by EPA from the Menominee fire site and analyzed for PFAS.

Sample date	Sample ID	Sample type
10/11/2022	SWIN2210111554WB	Raw water at Menominee water treatment plant
10/11/2022	S41281.01	Finished drinking water

Table 2. Chemical detections for water samples collected on October 11, 2022.

Chemical	SWIN2210111 554WB (ng/L or ppt)	S41281.01 (ng/L or ppt)	MDHHS Comparison Value or MCL [1] (ng/L or ppt)	Other CV or risk assessment value (ng/L or ppt)
5:3 FTCA	4.3	NA		
6:2FTS	430	99		3300 [2]
PFHxA	13	10	400,000	
PFOS	2.1	ND	8	
PFPeA	5.2	4		
PFBA	ND	3		7000 [3]

ng/L = nanograms per liter

ppt = parts per trillion

ND = Not detected

NA = Not analyzed

Conclusions

- There is a completed exposure pathway to the drinking water from the Menominee Fire incident.
- At this time, risk assessment of PFAS would indicate there is no apparent public health concern.
 - All detections of PFAS in any sample is below the comparison value or from the risk assessment has a hazard quotient well below 1.
- Further sampling is needed to continue to evaluate municipal water quality for PFAS and other chemicals that were released.

Recommendations

- Notify consumers of Menominee city water of the presence of PFAS in the water but no known health concern for those that are consuming it.
- Need for continued testing and ongoing monitoring of Public Water Supply
- Contingency Planning for mitigation or alternative water

References

1. <https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/pfasresponse/documents/MPART/Reports/2019-Health-Based-Drinking-Water-Value-Recommendations-PFAS-MI.pdf?rev=0dc919f0d56d44f98d5bb1130a8c8907>
<https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/drinking-water/mcl>
2. <https://stateofmichigan.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/sites/DHHS-Teams-Menominee-Michigan-Warehouse-Fire-Response/Shared%20Documents/Environmental%20Unit/Risk%20Assessments/221013%20Menominee%2062FTS%20Tox%20assessment.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=AwRTPF>
3. <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/risk/docs/guidance/gw/pfba2sum.pdf>