

PFAS – An Emerging Contaminant in Michigan

What are PFAS?

- Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a diverse group of toxic chemicals commonly used in industry, manufacturing, firefighting, and other common household and consumer products.
- PFAs are extremely resistant to breaking down and can persist in the environment for long periods of time.
- This group of chemicals has been linked to environmental and human health risks.

How are PFAS measured?

- PFAS are measured in Parts Per Trillion (ppt) – this is equivalent to 1 drop (0.05mL) in 20 Olympic swimming pools
- PFAS have already been found throughout Michigan and continue to be detected.

What is the state doing?

- Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART): Designed to ensure complete, consistent, and timely response to continued mitigation of PFAS across Michigan.
- Public Water Supply Testing Initiative: The DEQ continues to test public water supplies and drinking water in schools across the state. All of the sampling data is available on the DEQ's [website](#).

What can you do?

- Most point-of-use filters (fridge filters, Brita®, Pur®, etc.) will remove these contaminants. Look for the NS4 P473 designation.
- If your drinking water comes from a public drinking water source, visit the DEQ website to see if it has been tested.
- If you live on a private well, you may consider getting your water tested.
- There are no known health risks associated with swimming in water contaminated with PFAS, however these chemicals are surfactants that can produce foam in moving water. Avoid contact with foam and do not allow your pets to be exposed to it.
- Pay attention to fish consumption advisories throughout the state of Michigan, www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish.
- Visit the MDEQs PFAs response website for more information, www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse.

PFAS in the Clinton River watershed:

- The MDEQ collected surface water samples from the Clinton River, Lake St. Clair, and tributaries during 3 sampling events in 2017 and 2018.
- A recent report released by the MDEQ indicated generally low levels of PFAS within the Clinton River watershed and Lake St. Clair.
- Out of 33 samples collected, 6 samples tested above Water Quality Standards (WQS).
- MDEQ has indicated that Lake St. Clair will not need additional surface water sampling.
- Areas where PFAS concentrations exceeded WQS may be attributed to stormwater influences.
- Additional surface water sampling is needed to confirm sources of PFAS from suspect stormwater outfalls.

Sources:

www.michigan.gov

www.hrwc.org

www.oakgov.com/water

www.crw.org/resources