



## Press Release

March 24, 2022, 7:00 A.M.

Media Contact:

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### Village of Weston Press Conference

#### Results of Voluntary PFAS Testing

**The Village of Weston Water Utility** takes its role in protecting public health by providing safe drinking water to our community very seriously. Our drinking water is closely regulated by both the **EPA (U.S Environmental Protection Agency)** and **DNR (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources)** and it meets strict Federal and State drinking water standards.

The news has recently been filled with reports from area water utilities with the presence of PFAS (**Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances**). Although PFAS have been used for decades and are widespread in the environment, they are referred to as an emerging contaminant that EPA and DNR do not currently regulate.

On February 11, 2022, the Village of Weston issued a press release indicating the following points:

- A required sampling was conducted in 2014 and 2015 for the US EPA's **Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3)**.
- Samples analyzed under UCMR 3 did not find PFAS above the reporting limits of 20 parts per trillion in any of the Utility's 6 wells.
- Testing for PFAS is not required by state or federal regulators at this time.
- Weston Water Utility will be voluntarily sampling for PFAS in the coming weeks.

Today we are informing you of the results of the voluntary sampling conducted on March 3, 2022. Additionally, we are informing you of the steps that the Utility is taking for the short and long term reduction of PFAs levels in the water delivered to our customers.

Village of Weston Voluntary PFAS Sampling, Collected March 2, 2022								
Well No.	1	2	3 (b)	4 (b)	Treatment Plant (b, c)	5	6	Health Advisory
Combined PFAS (PFOA and PFOS) (a)	7.16	4.72	38.73	17.79	25.91	9.41	0	20
Hazard Index (d)	0.61	0.31	2.75	1.36	1.88	0.62	0.00	1.0

Notes:

- a) Combined PFAS is reported in parts per trillion
- b) Wells 3 & 4 pump to the Treatment Plant, not directly to the distribution system
- c) Treatment Plant discharge is the entry point to the distribution system. PFAS result shown is as tested, not estimated.
- d) The hazard index is a way of assessing the potential health impacts associated with mixtures of PFAS compounds.

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- PFAS compounds in four of six of the Weston Water Utility's wells are below all individual recommended health advisory levels.
  - Wells 3 and 4 exceed the WI Department of Health Services (DHS) recommended health advisory levels and hazard index guidance. These 2 wells feed into the treatment plant where we also took a sample which exceeded the health advisory levels.
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**Upon learning these sample results the Village of Weston Water Utility shut down the Treatment Plant, taking wells 3 and 4 off-line, on Thursday March 17, 2022. This action was taken after consultation with the Wisconsin DNR and DHS.**

Total PFAS (PFOA and PFOS) levels and Hazard Index values for the water pumped to the distribution system from the Utility's other wells are **below the recommended health advisory standards** of 20 parts per trillion and 1.0, respectively.

**As a result of these actions there is no reason for customers to modify their normal routine of water use, including drinking tap water.** However, if you have concerns about PFAS exposure, you can look into alternative water sources.

We have provided further information about PFAS including alternative water sources in an attachment to this statement. Additionally, we have provided links to websites for further information. These include the Village of Weston website where the PFAS sample results can be found.

The Utility is coordinating additional PFAS sampling as soon as possible to confirm the current results.

Shutting down wells 3 and 4 is a short-term solution. Prior to implementing solution(s), if long-term water demand is required, well 4 may need to be turned back on and customers will be notified ahead of time. Should this occur, water chemistry will likely move closer to the original results

The Utility is arranging to perform an additional round of PFAS sampling as soon as possible to confirm the current results.

In response to the situation the Village's Utility staff has discussed short and long-term solutions with its consultant, WDNR, DHS, and Marathon County Health Department.

### **Short-Term Solutions**

- Keep wells 3 and 4 off-line as much as possible.
- Modify piping to blend well 4 with distribution system water prior to well 4 pumping to the distribution system through the treatment plant. This concept has been discussed with DNR and the Village's engineering consultant. We feel this will be the most favorable short-term solution.

### **Long-Term Solutions**

- Complete proposed Wells 7 and 8 for additional supply of drinking water to meet all drinking water standards. This project is a long-term need of the Village that was being addressed and, coincidentally, is nearing construction stage as PFAS has become a common topic. The well construction component of this project is currently advertised for bids.
- Add granular activated carbon (GAC) removal at the treatment plant. The treatment plant is designed and pre-piped for adding GAC. Unfortunately, we are told that equipment for this treatment process may not be available for 40 months or more.

### **Next Steps**

- Continue working to implement our short and evaluate long-term projects.
- Additional sampling

### **Bottom Line**

- The Village of Weston Water Utility is ***not*** in violation of any drinking water standards or regulations and has taken actions proactively to protect the health of its customers.
- DNR, DHS, and Marathon Co. Health is ***not*** recommending customers change their usage or consumption of Weston's drinking water.
- The Utility is currently working on short- and long-term solutions for a permanent remedy to this situation.
- The Weston Water Utility is committed to providing our consumers with quality drinking water. As your water supplier, we will continue to work closely with the DNR, DHS, and Marathon County Health Department to maintain the quality of your water. **If you have questions about this notice, please contact the Village of Weston at 715-359-2876.**

Sincerely,

*Keith Donner, P.E.*

Keith E. Donner, P.E.  
Village Administrator

*Michael Wodalski, P.E.*

Michael Wodalski, P.E.  
Director of Public Works

*Joshua Swenson*

Joshua Swenson  
Utility Superintendent