



January 23, 2023

RE: CEW&SA Recent News

Dear Customer,

As you know the last month has been difficult for the residents of Elmore County. We have endured three tornadoes and one of the worst freezes we have ever seen. The most recent tornado completely destroyed the homes of two of our employees. The freeze lasted approximately four days with temperatures dipping well below normal conditions for the area. Three of these days our filter plant was producing potable water at its maximum output due to higher-than-normal usage from running faucets and customer leaks. During this time, we also discovered a leak on the raw water supply line which supplies our filter plant. Even with all of these challenges, CEW&SA was able to provide reliable potable water to all of our residential and commercial customers without ever losing our supply. Some of our neighboring utility systems were not as fortunate and saw days without water in their tanks. CEW&SA was able to provide water to some of these neighboring systems so that not all of their customers were without water. We are proud of the dedication of our employees during this unprecedented event and because of that, you as a customer never lost water due to our supply.

In other news, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently issued LIFETIME exposure health advisories for four different chemical compounds in drinking water. (These compounds are known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances or PFAS) Two of the four PFAS compounds (PFOA & PFOS) were lowered from the 2016 health advisory and the other two (PFBS & GenX) are new advisories. The new health advisory levels are well below what were previously deemed non-detectable levels. The four health advisories in the chart below reflect potential risk assuming 70 years of exposure. The EPA’s new advisory levels aren’t requirements or laws that drinking water suppliers must meet. They provide technical information to drinking water system operators, as well as federal, State, Tribal, and local officials, on the health effects, analytical methods, and treatment technologies associated with drinking water contaminants. This health effect information includes the concentrations of such drinking water contaminants (the health advisory “levels” or “values”) at which adverse health effects are not anticipated to occur over specific exposure durations, such as one-day, 10-days or a lifetime. The EPA now recommends that utilities notify customers when concentrations exceed the new advisory levels. Due to the newly announced advisory levels, recent testing of CEW&SA drinking water shows some results that are above the EPA’s new 2022 advisory levels for PFOS and PFOA, but below those added for GenX Chemicals and PFBS.

The EPA has acknowledged that current testing technology cannot accurately detect the presence of PFOA or PFOS at the levels in the new 2022 advisory. Test data for CEW&SA’s drinking water is based on current technology capabilities at third-party independent laboratories. All compounds below are measured in parts per trillion (ppt). To put it into perspective, one ppt is one drop of water in an Olympic size pool, which is nearly 10.6 million 8-ounce glasses of water. In 78 years, a person who drank 8, 8-ounce glasses of water every day would only consume 227,760 glasses of water. It would take almost 47 lifetimes to consume the 1 ppt in the pool.

Chemical	2016 Advisory	2022 Advisory	March 2022	May 2022	September 2022	November 2022
PFOA	70 ppt	.004 ppt (Interim)	No Detect	No Detect	No Detect	1.40
PFOS	(combined)	.02 ppt (Interim)	1.80	No Detect	No Detect	1.60
GEN X	NA	10 ppt (Final)	No Detect	No Detect	No Detect	No Detect
PFBS	NA	2,000 ppt (Final)	No Detect	No Detect	No Detect	0.99



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PFAS are still present in many things we use in our everyday life. These chemicals have been widely used to make products that are water resistant, stain resistant, heat resistant and/or oil resistant. Most uses of PFOA and PFOS were voluntarily phased out by U.S. manufacturers in the mid-2000s, but these chemicals remain in the environment due to their persistence and lack of degradation. The use of these compounds is still prevalent in overseas markets which can make their way to the US. In addition, some newer PFAS currently in use break down into PFOA and PFOS.

While customers need to be aware of the new advisory levels, CEW&SA's drinking water has been and continues to be safe to drink and for use in bathing, cooking, cleaning, etc. The water we produce continues to meet or exceed all EPA/ADEM regulations. Both the 2016 and 2022 advisory levels are based on a lifetime of daily consumption. Currently the health advisories are leading EPA to set future enforceable limits called maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). These MCLs were expected to be proposed in December 2022, but to date have not been released and are still under review.

PFAS will become one of the most difficult and expensive hurdles water systems have to face in the future. CEW&SA has shown the ability to provide water with PFAS levels that are non-detectable, but we continue to be proactive by exploring alternative treatment options. This year CEW&SA will begin monitoring for 29 unregulated PFAS compounds plus lithium each quarter as part of the EPA's UCMR 5 sampling program to assure we are continuing to provide the highest quality water, as we navigate through these new advisories and regulations. Please refer to the CEW&SA website (www.cewsa.com) for further information. If you have not followed us on Facebook, please do so. We post valuable information to our page and want to make sure you are informed of these and any other topics as the water industry evolves..

Kindest Regards,

Fred Braswell, III – CEW&SA Board Chairman

Chadwick E. Shaw, P.E. – CEW&SA General Manager