**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Public Water Systems (PWS ID# NV000\_\_\_\_\_\_)**

**Has Levels of Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Above The Hazard Index In The EPA National Drinking Water Regulation**

Our water system recently exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Drinking Water Regulation, and as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we *[did/are doing]* to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of Federal and State regulated drinking water contaminants, EPA has adopted a standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) is in excess of the Hazard Limit (HI). For PFAS, a mixture Hazard Index greater than 1 (unitless) is an exceedance of the MCL. Public water systems have five years (by 2029) to implement solutions that reduce PFAS if monitoring shows that drinking water levels exceed the HI MCL.

On *[date]*, we received notice that the sample*(s)* collected on *[sample date(s)]* showed that our system exceeds the PFAS Hazard Index. The sample result*(s)* were obtained from *[describe sample location]* through *[sampling method; a single sample / several samples / a running annual average (RAA), in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged]*. The sample result*(s)* for PFAS based on the sample*(s)* collected is *[level]* (unitless), *[the individual results for PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS] [ng/L or ppt]*.

**What is the Hazard Index?**

The Hazard Index is a long-established approach that EPA regularly uses, for example in the Superfund program, to determine the health concerns associated with exposure to chemical mixtures. EPA’s HI MCL is set at 1 (unitless) and applies to any mixture containing two or more of PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and HFPO-DA (known as “GenX chemicals). These PFAS can often be found together in different mixtures and research shows that exposure to mixtures of these chemicals may have additive health impacts.

For more information, see <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/pfas-npdwr_fact-sheet_hazard-index_4.8.24.pdf>

**What is PFAS?**

PFAS chemicals are used as a processing aid in the manufacture of fluoropolymers used in non-stick cookware and other products, as well as other commercial and industrial uses, based on its resistance to harsh chemicals and high temperatures. PFAS has also been used in aqueous film-forming foams for firefighting and training, and it is found in consumer products such as stain-resistant coatings for upholstery and carpets, water-resistant outdoor clothing, and greaseproof food packaging. Major sources of PFAS in drinking water include discharge from industrial facilities where it was made or used and the release of aqueous film-forming foam. Although the use of PFAS has decreased substantially, contamination is expected to continue indefinitely because it is extremely persistent in the environment and is soluble and mobile in water.

**What does this mean?**

*\** *Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) can persist in the human body and exposure may lead to increased risk of adverse health effects. Low levels of multiple PFAS that individually would not likely result in increased risk of adverse health effects may result in adverse health effects when combined in a mixture. Some people who consume drinking water containing mixtures of PFAS in excess of the Hazard Index (HI) MCL may have increased health risks such as liver, immune, and thyroid effects following exposure over many years and developmental and thyroid effects following repeated exposure during pregnancy and/or childhood.*

*\* For specific health information, see*

*<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>*

**What should I do?**

* If you have specific health concerns, a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at higher risk than other individuals and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.
* Other people may also choose to use a home water filter that is certified to reduce levels of PFAS for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFAS. Home water treatment devices are available that can reduce levels of PFAS. For more specific information regarding the effectiveness of home water filters for reducing PFAS, visit the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) International website, <http://www.nsf.org/>, or the EPA website for the water filter factsheet,

<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/water-filter-fact-sheet.pdf>.

* Boiling your water will not remove PFAS.

For more information, see <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>

**What is being done?**

*[Describe corrective action]*. We anticipate resolving the problem within *[estimated time frame].*

*\*[For community water systems, if only one portion of the service area is impacted and you were granted permission from the state to limit the distribution of the public notice, it is highly recommended to include a map of the afflicted area. The system should copy and paste a map below if it elects to include one] \**

**OPTIONAL**: Only a portion of our service area, specifically *[AREA]*, is affected by this public notice. Please see find a map illustrating the affected area *[attached/enclosed/below].*

For more information, please contact *[name of contact]* at *[phone number]* or *[mailing address]*.

*\*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. \**

This notice is being sent to you by *[Public Water System].* PWS ID# NV000\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date distributed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.