

FACT SHEET

Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

- **Per and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)** are man-made chemicals that have been used in the United States since the 1940s. They are found in many manufacturing industries as well as in common household items like non-stick cookware, stain repellants, carpeting, personal care products, and cleaning products.¹ PFAS are also used in many firefighting retardant foams.
- **PFOA and PFOS** are the two most prominent and studied chemicals of the PFAS class of chemicals. These chemicals accumulate and do not break down (and are sometimes referred to as “forever chemicals”), which is why they are of concern for the environment and public health.¹
- **Exposure to PFAS** can occur through contaminated soil and water used to grow food, food packaging, normal use and disposal of consumer products that are made with PFAS products such as carpet, plastic packaging, and stain repellent sprays, and by consuming contaminated drinking water.¹
- **Possible adverse health effects of PFAS may include** increased cholesterol, liver and kidney damage, reproductive and developmental issues, and increased risk of cancer. The health effects to exposure of PFAS and mixtures of PFAS are still being studied.^{3,4}
- **History of PFAS Drinking Water Regulations:** A Health Advisory was issued for PFOA and PFOS in 2022^{2,3}. A health advisory gives a non-regulatory concentration for a contaminant at or below which adverse health effects are not anticipated to occur over specific exposure conditions.³ In March 2023, the EPA proposed a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for 6 PFAS compounds (including PFOA and PFOS) and the final rule was issued on April 10, 2024. See full announcement at [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) | US EPA](#).
- **PFAS testing in drinking water** was required by drinking water utilities by the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 (UCMR3), which included six PFAS chemicals being sampled quarterly for one year. None of these chemicals were detected in Beaver Water District’s drinking water. The next required sampling period for PFAS is currently underway with the UCMR5 monitoring events being conducted between 2023-2025. The analysis for UCMR5 includes testing for 29 different PFAS.⁵ Our four customer cities have begun the UCMR5 monitoring and as of May 2024, only one PFAS compound, 6:2-fluorotelomersulfonic acid, has been detected at a very low level at one sampling location and only during one of the sampling events. Additional sampling and reporting will begin according to the schedule in the newly finalized PFAS drinking water standard.

¹ [Basic information on PFAS](#)

² [PFAS Laws and Regulations](#)

³ [PFOA and PFOS Health Advisories](#)

⁴ [PFAS Health Effects](#)

⁵ [UCMR5](#)

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About Beaver Water District

Beaver Water District supplies drinking water to people and industries in Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers, Bentonville and surrounding areas. These cities then resell the water to surrounding towns and communities. The District’s mission is to sustainably provide our customers with safe, economical drinking water. For more information, visit www.bwdh2o.org.