EPA Update
Drinking Water Advisory
PFOS / PFOA

PWS ID# 1150002

EPA Update: New PFOS / PFOA Drinking Water Advisory Established

- **EPD confirms that Rome is well below the Life Time Health Advisory Limit:**

On May 19, 2016, the EPA released the revised health advisory for Perfluoroctane Sulfonate (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) that sets the combined lifetime exposure limit at 70 parts per trillion (PPT). In 2009 the EPA published Provisional Health Advisories (Non Regulated Advisory) for PFOA at 400 PPT and PFOS at 200 PPT based on evidence available at that time (1). The science has now evolved and the EPA is now replacing the 2009 provisional advisories with new lifetime health advisories.

In a cooperative effort between the Rome Water and Sewer Division (RWSD) and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), RWSD is operating its system to provide finished water well below the EPA Health Advisory. This was confirmed by EPD Watershed Compliance Program Manager Lewis Hays, regarding recent laboratory testing results of 39 PPT for combined PFOS/ PFOA. The RWSD is committed to providing the safest drinking water possible for Rome/Floyd County including the over 100 RWSD employees who strive daily to protect our community water. RWSD is proactively developing a comprehensive plan to sample and protect against Emerging Unregulated Contaminants that might pose a health threat to the community.

Both PFOA and PFOS are fluorinated organic chemicals that are part of a larger group of chemicals referred to as perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs). PFOA and PFOS have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. These chemicals have been used to develop products based on their resistance to: water, grease, and stains. They have been used to make carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, cookware, and paper packaging for food.

Some of the common trademark brand names containing these products on a wide scale basis include: Teflon, Stain Master, and Scotch Guard. Because these chemicals have been used in an array of consumer products, most people have been exposed to them. Scientists have found PFOA and PFOS in the blood of nearly all the people they tested, but these studies show that the levels of PFOA and PFOS in blood have been decreasing (2).

Contamination is typically localized and associated with a specific facility, for example, an industrial facility where these chemicals were produced or used to manufacture other products. Between 2000 and 2002, PFOS was voluntarily phased out of production in the U.S. by its primary manufacturer, 3M. In 2006, eight major companies voluntarily agreed to phase out their global production of PFOA and PFOA related chemicals, although there are a limited number of ongoing uses.

While consumer products and food are a large source of exposure to these chemicals for most people, drinking water can be an additional source in the small percentage of communities where these chemicals have contaminated water supplies (2). EPA has Not Regulated national primary drinking water standards for PFOA and PFOS.

EPA is evaluating Regulation Standards for PFOA and PFOS as drinking water contaminants in accordance with the process required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). To create a Regulation Standard for a contaminant under SDWA, EPA must find that it: (1) may have adverse health effects; (2) occurs frequently (or there is a substantial likelihood that it occurs frequently) at levels of public health concern; and (3) there is a meaningful opportunity for health risk reduction for people served by public water systems.

Sample Location	PFOA	PFOS	Combined Results
Water Treatment Facility (4/28/16)	0.035ug/L (ppb) [35 PPT]	0.0042ug/L (ppb) [4.2 PPT]	0.0392ug/L (ppb) [39 PPT]

Sources:

1: EPA 505-F-14-001 Emerging Contaminants – Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)

2: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/201605/documents/drinkingwaterhealthadvisories_pfoa_pfos_5_19_16.final_.1.pdf

Your Views are Welcome!

If you are interested in learning more about the water department, water quality, source water assessment or have questions relating to this water quality report, please contact: **Mike Hackett** - Division Director, 706-236-4560 or **Wayne Stanley** - Water Treatment Facility Director, 706-236-4527