

Perfluorochemicals (PFCs)

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MDH Current Activities: Perfluorochemicals (PFCs) in Minnesota

Also referred to as Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

October 2017

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released health advisory values in 2016 to reflect the latest scientific evidence about the risk posed by PFCs. MDH staff reviewed the studies and methods used by EPA, to determine whether our health-based values for these chemicals needed to be lowered, and if so, what the values should be.

In May 2017, MDH released updated guidance values for PFOA and PFOS. The values apply to short periods of time (i.e., weeks to months) during pregnancy and breastfeeding, as well as over a lifetime of exposure. The revision is based on the understanding that PFOA and PFOS stay in the human body for years, can increase with additional exposures, cross the placenta, and are secreted in breastmilk.

The updated values are health recommendations to local officials operating public water supplies and private well owners in areas with PFCs in groundwater. In addition, these values are used by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and other agencies to take action to ensure responsible parties are held accountable for clean-up and remediation of contaminated sites.

The updated values are 35 parts per trillion for PFOA and 27 parts per trillion for PFOS. These values are more protective than the EPA value of 70 parts per trillion for either chemical or when added together. While the EPA value is protective for most people, the updated MDH values reflect new state-level analysis of the potential for mothers to pass along the chemicals to fetuses and nursing infants.

MDH recommends that women in the affected communities who are currently breastfeeding, and pregnant women who plan to breastfeed, should continue to do so. Breastfeeding is important for the short and long-term health of both a mother and infant. Pregnant or nursing women using water from affected groundwater sources to prepare infant formula may consider using filtration or bottled water to reduce PFC exposure until the contamination of their water supply has been remedied.

Residents of south Washington County who live in or near areas where groundwater has been contaminated with perfluorochemicals (PFCs) had an opportunity to ask questions about PFCs and discuss this issue one-on-one with staff from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and Washington County at meetings on June 6, 2017 in Lake Elmo and on June 7, 2017 in Cottage Grove.

Information for affected Minnesotans

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Of Interest

[Perfluorochemicals \(PFCs\) in Minnesota](#) for information about specific sites in the state.

[For Health Professionals: About Perfluorochemicals \(PFCs\) in Drinking Water](#)

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**Exhibit
2762**

State of Minnesota v. 3M Co.,
Court File No. 27-CV-10-28862

[Response in Affected Communities - Updated October 2017](#)

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