



# PFAS (Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) Update

In case you have concerns, here are some frequently asked questions and answers to clear things up regarding PFAS

## **WHEN DID THIS BEGIN?**

Prior to 2021 the city and the IEPA started performing tests on its current wells to determine if there was a presence of PFAS in its drinking water supply. During the middle of 2021, the city received results that PFAS was found in four of the city's eight wells. At that time, the city posted information on its website along with additional information to help educate the public on the potential health effects of PFAS along with showing the results of the tests. This information was also presented at a public meeting in July 2021. One of the main questions the city was trying to have answered in 2021 was the city's water safe to drink. The response the city received from State and Federal EPA officials is the level of PFAS found in the City's water does not mean that the water is unsafe, though they have not determined any safety guidelines for how many PFAs can be found in Water. Since that time, USEPA in April 2024 established limits and timelines of when public water supply systems must comply with these new requirements.

## **WHAT IS THE CITY DOING?**

The city has reviewed options starting back in 2021 on what can be done to address PFAS. An extensive study was conducted, and the two options were determined to address this problem:

- Find a new Drinking Water Source

The study concluded that going to the new Grand Prairie Water Commission to bring Lake Michigan water to the area was the best and most cost-effective approach. The city has joined this commission which was officially formed in July 2024 and is working as a member to bring Lake Michigan water to the residents of Crest Hill. The current schedule is to have this new water source online by 2030 and over the next 3-5 years residents of the city will be seeing multiple projects being completed around the city to allow us to receive this new water supply.

- Upgrade equipment and filters to the city's existing infrastructure to help remediate the PFAS levels.

The city has upgraded three of the 6 wells that needed updating in the last fiscal year and have scheduled the other three this coming fiscal year. We will also continue to monitor the situation by testing the wells annually, to make sure we continue following the IEPA guidelines.

- In 2021 when the city was informed by the IEPA that PFAS had been found in its water supply, the city engaged in a lawsuit, and is trying to collect from the parties responsible. If the city is successful, these funds will be used to help offset the costs the city needs in order to be compliant with the new USEPA guidelines on PFAS.

## **CAN YOU DRINK THE WATER?**

According to the IEPA exposure to PFAS does not necessarily mean that a person will experience any adverse health effects but for more information regarding PFAS and additional ways to reduce exposure, is available on the Illinois EPA PFAS webpage at <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/pfas.html>