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Important Update: Community Wells

By Dave McKee,
DPW Director

You may have read about a new threat to communities from the west side of the state who draw drinking water from underground aquifers ... PFAS. Here's an excerpt from a July 31, 2018, *Detroit News* article.

Michigan Halfway Through Testing Hundreds Of Water Sites For PFAS Contaminants

PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl) are chemicals that have been used in firefighting foams, food packaging materials, and in commercial household products or manufacturing facilities. Long-term exposure to PFAS can cause health problems, including issues in the thyroid, kidney, heart and

reproductive system. The water supply for the City of Parchment and neighboring Cooper Township (both located in the west side of Michigan) was found to have 1,587 parts per trillion of PFAS, more than 20 times higher than the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's health advisory of 70 parts per trillion."

Due to the recent finding on the west side of the state, the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team has undertaken a proactive effort to investigate sources and locations of

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PFAS contamination in the entire State of Michigan. In collaboration with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), all wells for the Independence Township public water supply have been tested for this contaminate.

PFAS was "Not Detected" in 15 of the 16 wells that provide drinking water for the Township. Test results from one well indicated a trace amount of PFAS analytes at 10 PPT (part per trillion), well below the non-regulatory Lifetime Health Advisory Level of 70 PPT set by the United States

Environmental Protection Agency in 2016. Upon notification of PFAS trace amounts showing up at this one well, the Township proactively shut this wellhead down until the MDEQ can determine the best course of action. Independence Township will now begin quarterly testing of all well sites for PFAS contaminates as part of our routine water quality monitoring process.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the Independence Township Department of Public Works at 248-625-8222.