Notice to Drinking Water Customers

PFAS Levels above Health-Based Standard

Drinking water samples collected from: Roy City Of, 45027 K, Pierce County, recently exceeded the State Action Level (SAL) for the following per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). SALs are drinking water standards set for life-time exposure, and exceeding is based on the average of samples taken over the last twelve-month period. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what we found, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

PFAS Contaminant	Detected Level (ppt*)	SAL (ppt)
PFOS—perfluorooctane sulfonic acid	10.5	4.0
PFHxS—perfluorohexane sulfonic acid	12.5	10
Hazard Index PFAS (HFPO-DA, PFBS, PFHxS, and PFNA)**	2.1	1 (unitless ratio)
**ppt—parts per trillion or nanograms per liter.* ***The hazard index SAL is based on the sum of fractions for each PFAS contaminant compared to the health-based standard.*		

In 2021, the Washington State Board of Health (Board) adopted a rule that requires our water system to test for a new class of contaminants not yet regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which included health-based standards called state action levels (SALs). On April 10, 2024, EPA announced the final National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for PFAS. Starting April 2029, the new EPA standards, called maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) will become effective. In January 2026, the Board aligned the SALs with the MCLs so there is one consistent drinking water standard. We are required to notify you when our results exceed the health-based standard.

What should you do?

There is nothing required of you at this time.

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) recommends the following.

- If you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or mixing infant formula with tap water, use an alternative drinking water source. You can also install water treatment in your home, using *Point of Use Water Treatment* 331-699 (PDF) such as reverse osmosis or an activated carbon filter, that is certified to lower the levels of PFAS in your water. There are several different types of filters you can purchase depending on your budget and water flow rate *PFAS Point-Of-Use Filter Options* 331-713 (PDF). Follow the manufacturer's maintenance and replacement recommendations.
- You can learn about PFAS and the steps you can take to reduce your exposure to PFAS in drinking water, while your water system considers options. Visit the PFAS information webpage on the DOH website to learn more.
- Do NOT boil your water to reduce PFAS. Boiling your water will not reduce PFAS levels.
- If you have specific health concerns, consult your healthcare provider.

What do we know about PFAS?

PFAS are a large family of chemicals that are tasteless, colorless, and odorless. They do not occur in nature and are manufactured to make many products including stain-resistant carpets and fabrics, nonstick pans, fast food wrappers, grease-proof food containers, waterproof clothing, makeup, and a special kind of firefighting foam. Over many years, these unregulated chemicals were released into the environment from factories, fire training areas, everyday products, and other places. Once released, PFAS do not break down easily and last a long time in

the environment. Some PFAS seeped from surface soil into groundwater. Public health officials are concerned about PFAS in drinking water because of new information about their potential human health effects. When ingested, some PFAS can build up in the body and, over time, may increase to a level where health effects could occur. Human health effects of PFAS are still being actively researched and health advice continues to evolve.

What are the potential health effects?

- **PFOS**. Some people who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the SAL over many years may have increased health risks such as cardiovascular, immune, and liver effects, as well as increased incidence of certain types of cancers including kidney and testicular cancer. In addition, there may be increased risks of developmental and immune effects for people who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL following repeated exposure during pregnancy and/or childhood. .
- **PFHxS.** Some people who drink water containing PFHxS in excess of the SAL over many years may have increased health risks such as immune, thyroid, and liver effects. In addition there may be increased risks of developmental effects for people who drink water containing PFHxS in excess of the MCL following repeated exposure during pregnancy and/or childhood.
- **Hazard Index PFAS (HFPO-DA, PFBS, PFHxS, and PFNA).** Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) can persist in the human body and exposure may lead to increased risk of adverse health effects. Low levels of multiple PFAS that individually would not likely result in increased risk of adverse health effects may result in adverse health effects when combined in a mixture. Some people who consume drinking water containing mixtures of PFAS in excess of the Hazard Index (HI) SAL may have increased health risks such as liver, immune, and thyroid effects following exposure over many years and developmental and thyroid effects following repeated exposure during pregnancy and/or childhood.

What is Being Done

- We are working with DOH to determine next steps.
- We will continue to update you about steps we take to resolve this problem.
- We have taken the source with high PFAS offline until we can find an effective solution.
- We are determining how to best address PFAS in our water supply.
- We are seeking financial support to address the PFAS in our drinking water.
- We will continue to notify you every quarter results exceed a SAL, as required.

For more information, please call Roy City Of at 253-843-1113 or email PublicWorks@CityOfRoyWA.US.

Please share this notice with others who may drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments and businesses). We encourage you to post it in a public place, share copies by hand, or mail.

The Roy City Of Water System sent this notice to you on 11/16/2026.