

PFAS Notification – Rock Island Arsenal

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) has tested the Rock Island Arsenal water system for compounds known as Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) as part of a statewide investigation of community water supplies.

Neither the Illinois EPA nor the U.S. EPA have yet developed enforceable drinking water standards for PFAS. In the interim, Illinois EPA has developed health-based Guidance Levels for the small number of PFAS for which there is appropriate information to do so. Guidance Levels are intended to be protective of all people consuming the water over a lifetime of exposure.

Illinois EPA testing has determined that one or more PFAS were detected in our water system at levels greater than or equal to the lowest concentration the laboratory can reliably detect, shown as the Minimum Reporting Level in the table below. The levels are presented in units of nanogram per liter (ng/L) or parts per trillion (ppt). The Guidance Level for PFOA is equal to the Minimum Reporting Level and was exceeded.

PFAS Analyte	Acronym	IL EPA Guidance Level (ppt)	Results (ppt)	
			10/21/2020	11/17/2020
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid	PFBS	140,000	ND	2.6
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid	PFHxS	140	ND	ND
Perfluorononanoic acid	PFNA	21	ND	ND
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid	PFOS	14	5.3	5.5
Perfluorooctanoic acid	PFOA	2	2.6	3.1
Perfluorohexanoic acid	PFHxA	560,000	ND	ND
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer	HFPO-DA	560	ND	ND

Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) = 2.0 ng/L

ND = Not Detected

Nanograms per Liter (ng/L) = Part per Trillion (ppt)

Bold text represents values exceeding guidance levels

The Rock Island Arsenal is taking measures to respond to the results of this testing and previous testing undertaken by the Army. As proactive measures to protect our drinking water supply, the Arsenal is:

- Notifying consumers – PFAS data is included in the Consumer Confidence Report, which is released every June.
- Continuing to monitor PFAS levels through regular sampling in accordance with Army Policy. The Rock Island Arsenal samples the water supply for PFAS every two years. The next sampling event is scheduled for 2022.
- Evaluating options and a timeline to reduce consumer exposure to PFAS.

Exposure to PFAS above the recommended Guidance Levels does not mean that a person will get sick or an adverse health effect will occur. Guidance Levels are conservative estimates. The possible health effects of PFAS are dependent on how much a person is exposed to and how long they are exposed to it. Exposure to PFAS above recommended Guidance Levels for periods of time may mean that a person is at a greater risk of experiencing these adverse

effects. There is not enough information available for scientists to develop health-based Guidance Levels for all of the PFAS sampled.

PFAS are a group of thousands of manmade substances that have been produced in the United States since the 1940s and utilized for a variety of applications ranging from water and stain-proofing to firefighting. Some PFAS have been phased out of production in the United States due to environmental and human health concerns, yet they persist in the environment and may contaminate surface and ground waters. PFAS are present in many consumer goods, including food packaging and personal care products, and scientists have found levels of PFAS in the blood of nearly all individuals tested. Exposure to high levels of PFAS over time may cause adverse health effects such as increased cholesterol levels, increased risk for thyroid disease, low infant birth weights, reduced response to vaccines, pregnancy-induced hypertension and increased risk of liver and kidney cancer as seen in studies of laboratory animals

Additional information regarding PFAS, the statewide PFAS investigation network, and the impact to public health can be found in the attached fact sheet as well as on the Illinois EPA PFAS webpage: <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/water-quality/pfas/Pages/default.aspx>.

The confirmed sampling results for Rock Island Arsenal are also available on Illinois EPA's Drinking Water Watch at: <http://water.epa.state.il.us/dww/> . Our System ID is IL1615387. The drinking water source on the Rock Island Arsenal is surface water drawn from the Mississippi River. The adjacent Quad Cities' drinking water plants are also supplied by the Mississippi River.

The Army is committed to ensuring quality drinking water is provided to its Soldiers, family members, and civilians. Proactive sampling is performed by the Army on its drinking water systems and coordination with other purveyors of drinking water to installations occurs to ensure PFOS/PFOA remains below the Environmental Protection Agency's lifetime health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOS and PFOA (individually or combined). While not an enforceable regulatory standard, a lifetime health advisory represents a concentration in drinking water that is not expected to produce adverse health effects if the water is consumed over an entire lifetime. The Army maintains an installation specific PFAS information page at the following link: [Rock Island Arsenal :: U.S. Army Environmental Command](#)

POC:

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