



# PRESS RELEASE

## Frenchtown Water Treatment

5300 N. Dixie Hwy. Newport, MI 48166 (734) 289-1015 frenchtowntownship.org

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### FRENCHTOWN WATER RECEIVES RECENT ROUND OF PFAS SAMPLE RESULTS

**Newport, Michigan** – The Michigan Department of Environmental, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) has notified the water departments in Frenchtown Charter Township and the City of Monroe that it has found evidence of possible PFAS contamination in their water systems. Both systems share intake in Lake Erie that service both municipal filtration plants. Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), a group of man-made chemicals used to repel oil and water, can lead to adverse human health effects. Local officials stress that the levels found in the water systems are well below the federal health guidelines, and the water is safe to drink.

Laboratory results received on September 6<sup>th</sup> taken September 3<sup>rd</sup> detected PFOS in a sample collected from EGLE's now monthly PFOS testing of raw surface water at the intake in Lake Erie. The Frenchtown Water Treatment system results from 09/03/2019 show that perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) had 0 parts per trillion (ppt) and 8 parts per trillion (ppt), totaling 8 ppt found in the water. The total Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) found in the water was 12 ppt. **Frenchtown Charter Township water test results from 09/03/19 are below the U.S Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) lifetime health advisory (LHA) of 70 parts per trillion for PFOA and PFOS combined, or individually if one is present.** All past Frenchtown Water test results have been well below the EPA LHA level.

In a July 29<sup>th</sup> sample at the Deerfield Filtration Plant, on the River Raisin in Deerfield, MI, EGLE detected a spike in PFAS readings that instigated public water systems testing in the River Raisin watershed. These samples systems were also tested last year by EGLE as part of its state-wide sampling effort and none of them showed significant PFAS contamination. Since the reported spike near Deerfield, sites downstream in the River Raisin Watershed and now along Lake Erie have recorded spiked PFAS levels.

Additional test results for the Frenchtown Water System are being taken and will be publicly released on the Township's website when available. Full regional test results can be found on the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team website, [www.michigan.gov/pfaresponse](http://www.michigan.gov/pfaresponse).



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It is not uncommon to find low levels of PFAS in drinking water supplies. PFAS compounds are a group of emerging and potential harmful man-made contaminants used in thousands of applications globally including firefighting foam, stain repellants, non-stick cookware, waterproof clothing, food wrappers, and many other consumer products. They do not break down in the environment and move easily into water.

In 2018, EGLE completed statewide testing on well water and community water supplies to determine if public health actions are needed. In 2019, EGLE is carrying out a statewide PFAS survey initiative to test drinking water from surface water community water supplies. This work is being completed to set a new clean-up standard for PFAS in drinking water in Michigan, currently the EPA LHA of 70 part per trillion for PFOA and PFOS individually or combined is used.

The Frenchtown Water Treatment Department is committed to providing customers with quality drinking water, the water is safe for consumption. The Frenchtown Water Department is working closely with EGLE to maintain drinking water quality will continue to be active on any new PFAS information as it becomes available. With the test results being below the LHA and of a minimum risk level, future sampling will continue to monitor levels along with investigation and evaluation of operational modification and treatment technology to reduce PFAS further.

For health-related questions, contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service (MDHHS) at 1-800-648-6942 or visit one of the websites below.

For information on PFAS including possible health outcomes, visit these websites:

- State of Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) website serving as the main resource for public information on PFAS contamination in Michigan [www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse](http://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse)
- Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ASTDR) website including health information, exposure, and links to additional recourses [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.EPA) website including basic information, U.S. EPA actions, and links to information [www.epa.gov/pfas](http://www.epa.gov/pfas)

Local residents who are concerned about the findings, have questions about the process going forward or would like to share their concerns, please contact the Frenchtown Water Department at (734) 289-1015 or visit our website at [www.frenchtowntownship.org](http://www.frenchtowntownship.org)