

# COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT



## McDONOUGH THE GERANIUM CITY

### **Important Information Regarding Your Drinking Water: Understanding PFAs**

Hello Valued Citizens of McDonough,

The City of McDonough Water Department is committed to providing you with safe and high-quality drinking water. We want to inform you about an important topic: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, often called "PFAS."

#### **What are PFAS?**

PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals that have been used in various industrial and consumer products since the 1940s due to their useful properties. You might find them in items like carpets, clothing, and food packaging.

#### **New EPA Regulations for Drinking Water**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been actively researching and regulating PFAS. On April 10, 2024, the EPA announced new, legally enforceable drinking water standards for six types of PFAS, including PFOA and PFOS. These standards are called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) and are set to protect public health.

As your public water system, the City of McDonough Water is now required to:

- Test for these PFAS chemicals.
- Inform you about the levels found in your drinking water.
- Reduce PFAS levels if they exceed the new standards.

The EPA expects these new regulations to significantly reduce PFAS exposure for millions of people, prevent illnesses, and even save lives over time.

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PFAS Levels in McDonough Water The City of McDonough treats water from both surface sources (John H. Furgeson Reservoir on Walnut Creek) and groundwater wells (Big Springs and Alexander Park North Well).

We have already conducted testing for the regulated PFAS compounds. Here are our most recent preliminary results:

### Big Springs Well (sampled 3/12/2025):

- PFOS: 4.7 parts per trillion (ppt)
- PFBS: 3.1 parts per trillion (ppt)
- PFOA, HFPO-DA (GenX), PFHxS, and PFNA were all below the Minimum Reporting Level (MRL), meaning they were not detected at or above that level.

**Note: The MCL for PFOS is 4.0 ppt.**

### North Well (sampled 1/08/2025):

- All regulated PFAS (PFOS, PFOA, HFPO-DA, PFHxS, PFNA, PFBS) were below the Minimum Reporting Level (MRL), meaning they were not detected at or above that level.

### Water Treatment Plant (sampled 4/08/2025):

- All regulated PFAS (PFOS, PFOA, HFPO-DA, PFHxS, PFNA, PFBS) were below the Minimum Reporting Level (MRL), meaning they were not detected at or above that level.

For clarity:

- 1  $\mu\text{g/L}$  (microgram per liter) is equal to 1 part per billion (ppb).
- 1  $\text{ng/L}$  (nanogram per liter) is equal to 1 part per trillion (ppt).
- The EPA's notification level for PFOS and PFOA is at or above 4.05 ppt.

### What the City of McDonough Water is Doing

While the EPA's new regulation allows public water systems up to five years (until 2029) to achieve full compliance, the City of McDonough Water System has already taken proactive steps.



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Our most recent water sample results indicated that the Big Springs Well had PFAS levels above the EPA's current reporting limit for PFOS (4.7 ppt compared to the 4.0 ppt MCL). Because of this, we have **closed the Big Springs Well as of June 26, 2025, to ensure the safety of your drinking water.**

We are working closely with the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) on long-term plans and will continue to monitor and sample all our water sources regularly to ensure no changes in current levels.

The protection of your public health, the environment, and the quality of your drinking water are our highest priorities. We are dedicated to finding the safest ways to operate, while also working to advance our system and technology to meet the current and future needs of our community.

### For More Information

You can find additional information about PFAS and the EPA's Health Advisories at the following links:

- **EPA's Drinking Water Health Advisories:**  
<https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>
- **EPA's Health Advisories Q&A:**  
<https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/questions-and-answers-drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-pfos-genx-chemicals-and-pfbs>
- **Ga EPD PFOA & PFOS Story Map with Recorded Levels by Location:**  
<https://gaepd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=e8f2c6a51c1c41088002350f1eabe598>

Warmly,

The City of McDonough Water Department

*Thank you for being the best part of our city.*

*With love, from our McDonough Hearts!*

