

City of Plainwell



"The Island City"

Rick Brooks, Mayor
Lori Steele, Mayor Pro-Tem
Todd Overhuel, Council Member
Brad Keeler, Council Member
Roger Keeney, Council Member

211 N. Main Street
Plainwell, Michigan 49080
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April 13, 2018

Dear Plainwell Water Customer:

RE: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

While the City is not required to conduct PFAS testing, given the recent statewide news reports of detects in numerous locations across the State of Michigan, the City felt it was in our community's best interest to be pro-active and conduct tests on all City wells.

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of manmade chemicals that are often used to repel oil, stain, grease, and water used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950s. PFAS are used in firefighting foams, nonstick cookware, fast food wrappers, some cosmetics and cleaning products, as well as in industry and manufacturing.

We have two primary wells (#4 and #7) located on the City's eastern border and one supplemental well that we have as a backup located on our western border (#5). Preliminary test results indicated Well #5 detected regulated PFAS of 22.9 parts per trillion. This level is 3 times below the EPA and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) standard of 70 parts per trillion. Wells #4 and #7 had no detectable PFAS.

Wells #4 and #7 (with no detect), provide 95% of the City's drinking water. Well #5 provides approximately 5%. Even though Well #5 had a regulated PFAS detect well below EPA and MDEQ standards, we removed it from service on Tuesday, April 10th, the same day the City received the preliminary results. Moving forward, the City will only be supplying water from Wells #4 and #7.

It is important to note that City procedure is to conduct secondary testing to confirm laboratory results prior to publishing the results. We have already contracted to conduct confirmation testing; we expect to have results in approximately 3-4 weeks.

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The City of Plainwell is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Due to local and state-wide concerns about drinking water we value transparency over waiting for secondary testing results. The results that we have received, even from Well #5, indicate that not a gallon of water has left our distribution system that exceeds any Federal or State drinking water standard. Furthermore, our testing of PFAS exceeds testing requirements set forth by the EPA and MDEQ. Moving forward we will continue to aggressively conduct testing to ensure the high quality of our drinking water.

The City is committed to providing our customers with up to date information as it becomes available, this information will be posted on the City's website (www.plainwell.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik J. Wilson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Erik J. Wilson, Manager
City of Plainwell