

**Hapeville Water Department**  
**Drinking Water Information Advisory Regarding PFAS**

**April 17, 2024**

On June 15, 2022, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released new drinking water Health Advisories for four different compounds of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances known by the abbreviations PFOA, PFOS, PFBS and GenX. These substances are commonly referred to as “PFAS.” PFAS is a group of manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1940’s because of their useful properties. These substances were widely used to make clothing, fabrics, personal care products, paper packaging for food and other widely used materials and products.

EPA’s Health Advisories provide information on contaminants that can cause human health effects and are known or anticipated to occur in drinking water. The advisories have been non-enforceable and non-regulatory and have been intended for informational purposes only. EPA developed the Health Advisories using conservative assumptions about lifetime exposure, potential impacts to sensitive populations, and other potential sources of exposure beyond drinking water. However, the EPA just announced the first national regulations limiting the amount of PFAS in drinking water. We are still waiting for further information from the EPA and EPD about this recent development.

PFAS can be found in air, soil and water and its presence is a result of industrial release and discharge from other sources. While drinking water utilities may not have been responsible for PFAS getting into their drinking water, the EPA encourages the water utilities to inform residents about the presence of PFAS in the water. The EPA also encourages communities to undertake additional monitoring to investigate potential sources and examine steps to reduce exposure. The City of Hapeville has been working closely with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to sample and monitor PFAS levels in our drinking water. Sampling results for all utilities including Hapeville, Atlanta and East Point are available to the public on the Georgia EPD website.

Based on one of the samples taken recently near the airport, Hapeville did slightly exceed the advisory limits and proposed MCL’s for PFOS and PFOA. However, our most recent water sample at this connection indicated PFAS levels below EPA’s current reporting limit of 4 parts per trillion.

While we are currently meeting all regulatory requirements for safe drinking water, Hapeville recognizes the risks associated with high levels of PFAS in the water. While it may be impossible to eliminate all the risks of PFAS completely, Hapeville is committed to lowering levels which means reducing those risks. The City of Hapeville will continue to work closely with the EPD and EPA for long-term planning and will continue to monitor and sample all water sources to ensure we are delivering the cleanest and safest water to our community.