

To our residents,

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) recently tested the City’s water system for 18 compounds known as Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) as part of a statewide investigation of community water supplies. 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. A fact sheet on PFAS can be found at the following link:

<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/basic-information-pfas>

The City of Marengo was one of many municipalities in the area and throughout the State that was notified about the presence of PFAS after the recent statewide investigation. At this time, the Illinois EPA (IEPA) and the U.S. EPA have not yet developed enforceable drinking water standards for PFAS. In the interim, the IEPA has developed health-based screening levels for the small number of PFAS for which there is appropriate information to do so. Screening levels are intended to be protective of all people consuming the water over a lifetime of exposure. There is not enough information available for scientists to develop health-based screening levels for all of the PFAS sampled, as per the IEPA.

While none of analytes sampled were above health-based screening levels, IEPA 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).

<b>PFAS Analyte</b>	<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Minimum Reporting Level (ppt)</b>	<b>Screening Level (ppt)</b>	<b>Analytical Result (ppt)</b>
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid	PFBS	2	140,000	3.4 - 9 ng/L*
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid	PFHxS	2	140	
Perfluorononanoic acid	PFNA	2	21	
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid	PFOS	2	14	3.6 – 4.3 ng/L*
Perfluorooctanoic acid	PFOA	2	21	
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid	HFPO-DA	2	---- <sup>a</sup>	
N-ethyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid	NEtFOSAA	2	----	
N-methyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid	NMeFOSAA	2	----	
Perfluorodecanoic acid	PFDA	2	----	
Perfluorododecanoic acid	PFDoA	2	----	
Perfluoroheptanoic acid	PFHpA	2	----	
Perfluorohexanoic acid	PFHxA	2	----	
Perfluorotetradecanoic acid	PFTA	2	----	
Perfluorotridecanoic acid	PFTTrDA	2	----	
Perfluoroundecanoic acid	PFUnA	2	----	
11-chloroicosafuoro-3-oxaundecane-1-sulfonic acid	11Cl-PF3OUdS	2	----	

<b>PFAS Analyte</b>	<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Minimum Reporting Level (ppt)</b>	<b>Screening Level (ppt)</b>	<b>Analytical Result (ppt)</b>
9-chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxanone-1-sulfonic acid	9Cl-PF3ONS	2	----	
4,8-dioxa-3H-perfluorononanoic acid	ADONA	2	----	

<sup>a</sup> Toxicity criteria is not available to calculate a screening level.

\*- Results varied from testing dates and locations based on two tests at two locations

As noted by the IEPA, 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. Exposure to PFAS above the recommended screening levels does not mean that a person will get sick or an adverse health effect will occur. Screening 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 screening levels for periods of time may mean that a person is at a greater risk of experiencing these adverse effects.

Please know that in the meantime, the City of Marengo has and will continue to take proactive measures to respond to the results of this testing. Said measures include the following:

- Inform residents of the IEPA sample results
- Continue to monitor PFAS levels through quarterly sampling
- Identify which water source intake/well is affected
- Isolate the affected water source intake to reduce levels
- Evaluating options and developing a plan to reduce public exposure to PFAS

Prior to this notification, the City, in collaboration with the City Engineer, was formulating plans for a water filtration system to help improve the City's overall water quality. This option was primarily being explored to reduce the Iron and Manganese content of the City's water supply. These plans will now be amended to include filtration of PFAS as well.

Based on these initial results, the City of Marengo will perform quarterly compliance sampling beginning January 1, 2021 and will keep the community updated and informed.

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 City of Marengo are also available on Illinois EPA's Drinking Water Watch system at <http://water.epa.state.il.us/dww/index.jsp>.

If you have questions, please contact:

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