



# CITY OF OTSEGO

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## *SUMMARY OF THE PFAS TESTING PROCEDURES*

The City of Otsego Municipal Water System has recently received their PFAS test results. These results included all three municipal wells (#3, #4 and #5). Wells #4 and #5 received a result of non-detect, and Well #3 received a result of 11 parts per trillion (ppt). The EPA Lifetime Health Advisory threshold is 70 ppt, putting even Well #3 far below that action level.

I would like to give a detailed description of the PFAS testing procedure. After the announcement of a Michigan DEQ program to test all municipal water systems for PFAS to better understand and locate PFAS across the state under the group *Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART)*, the DEQ put the City of Otsego, Otsego Township and the City of Plainwell to the front of the line. Due to the recent concerns about our water quality. On April 27<sup>th</sup> certified PFAS testing technicians from the private firm of Merit Laboratories took samples from all three City of Otsego municipal wells. Those samples were sent to Vista Laboratories, for testing.

In July, I made multiple emails and phone calls to Heather Bishop of the DEQ asking for some information regarding when we would be receiving results after we noticed municipalities that were tested after us were already receiving results. The City of Otsego results then came in on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. It appears an internal reporting delay was the reason for the long delay in getting results. Below is a detailed description of the actions that took place on August 3<sup>rd</sup>:

- **6:44 pm Results Received-** Heather Bishop from the DEQ sent an email including the results in an attachment to WWTP Supt. Keyzer and myself.
- **7:19 pm Discussion with Supt. Keyzer-** I held a brief discussion with Supt. Keyzer about the results. Focusing on Well #3 that tested 11 ppt and what the next steps should be. Coming to an understanding that the safest option would be to take Well #3 offline immediately. Since Wells #4 and #5 can handle full capacity of needs until we are given guidance from DEQ. Supt. Keyzer subsequently shuts down Well #3.
- **7:54 pm Email DEQ-** Emailed Heather Bishop informing her of our intentions of shutting down Well #3 until we receive guidance from DEQ.
- **8:02 pm Email City Commission-** Emailed the City Commission with a summary of the results along with our plan going forward.
- **8:17 pm Facebook Post-** Created a Facebook post to inform the public of the results along with an explanation of our plan going forward pertaining to Well #3.
- **8:21 pm Email Dept. Heads-** Emailed all department heads to inform them of the results and the plan going forward. In the email I also asked Clerk Cronen to add the Facebook post to the city website. Clerk Cronen subsequently arranges for the post to be placed on the city website.
- **8:27 pm Informed Press-** Emailed MLive reporter who had previously contacted me about PFAS results to assure that the public would be aware of the results.

The City of Otsego has strived to be as transparent as possible when it comes to water testing. The 11 ppt are from two separate types of chemicals; PFBS and PFHxA. The City of Otsego has already arranged for an additional PFAS test for Well #3, along with an initial investigation to discover the source of the contamination. Going forward we will continue to seek advice from the DEQ to take the appropriate steps before we bring Well #3 back online.

I would like to take the time to thank the public for their patience as we went through this process. The DEQ also deserves a thanks for provision of the PFAS testing and Heather Bishop for all of the assistance she has provided. I would also like to thank WWTP Supt. Keyzer for the endless amounts of work he has put in getting these results and explaining them to me. He goes to work every day to keep the residents safe. The City of Otsego is lucky to have him.

Sincerely,

Aaron Mitchell  
City Manager