

ROBERT G. CASSILLY
Harford County Executive

ROBERT S. McCORD
Director of Administration



JOSEPH J. SIEMEK, P.E.
Director of Public Works

September 6, 2024

Dear Valued Customer,

You may be aware that drinking water from wells at some Harford County public schools was reported to contain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). These substances, also known as "forever chemicals," are a group of man-made chemicals that have been used in a range of consumer products since the 1940s and have been found in the environment including untreated water supplies, which has become a public health concern.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently set limits on certain PFAS contaminants in drinking water, some as low as 4 parts per trillion (ppt). To help you understand these new ppt limits, the lowest ever set for drinking water, consider 1 ppt as one drop of ink in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools, or 1 drop in 10 million gallons.

I am writing to assure you of the safety of your water based on our treatment and testing to comply with all EPA and state requirements, and to let you know what we are doing to help the schools and others in our community that may be affected by PFAS.

On behalf of our customers, Harford County Department of Public Works, Division of Water & Sewer performs more than 230,000 tests of our drinking water supplies each year. **All recent testing of our drinking water shows PFAS levels far below the EPA's limits.** In fact, last year, we earned an award for the quality of our drinking water.

Our Perryman Water Treatment Plant, which is our only plant that draws from groundwater, uses an activated carbon treatment system, which is recognized as a current best practice for removal of PFAS compounds from raw water supplies.

To assist County residents served by other public water systems, and those on private wells, County Executive Bob Cassilly has by Executive Order established the Harford County Drinking Water PFAS Taskforce. The taskforce goals are to share the County's expertise and coordinate among all government entities to support effective responses to PFAS, maintain public transparency and identify public funding available to assist with PFAS detection and removal. We have established a taskforce webpage including

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links to guidance from federal and state authorities. It includes specific information for those who get their drinking water from private wells. You can view the webpage at <https://www.harfordcountymd.gov/3781/Drinking-Water-PFAS-Task-Force>

If you have additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 410-638-3300.



William J. Bettin, P.E.
Deputy Director of Public Works
Division of Water & Sewer