



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 28, 2018

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August 28, 2018: Daily Update on the Parchment Water Response

KALAMAZOO, MI— The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department will provide a news release each day at 4:00 p.m. for the community with the latest information, and report on the daily activities surrounding the Parchment Water Response.

Municipal Water Update

“Do Not Drink” Order Lifted

The “Do Not Drink” order was lifted on August 27, 2018 for the City of Parchment’s municipal water system after the Michigan Departments of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concluded the latest test results of the municipal water system meet the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. After extensive testing for PFAS and several other parameters, including lead and copper, state and federal health and safety experts have deemed the latest results meet state and federal standards and the water is now safe for normal consumption.

The drinking water advisory remains in effect for residents who use wells for their drinking water and have been identified by the DEQ within the investigation area, pending further testing. These residents are being provided with authorized filters.

For the next year, Parchment municipal water will be tested for PFAS weekly for the first month and monthly thereafter to ensure water quality meets the Safe Water Drinking Act standards.

Flushing & Informational Sheets

Extensive flushing was done on the Parchment distribution system. Residents also completed flushing in their home to remove the water containing PFAS. This flushing may have dislodged lead and copper particles in the water service line or home plumbing. The following three information sheets are attached for residents to learn how to reduce exposure to lead and copper, and some options that are available for residents that are concerned about lead or copper in their home. All three documents are posted at www.kalcounty.com/hcs/pfasresponse.php.

- Important Information About Lead and Copper In Your Drinking Water
- How to Identify Lead-Free Certifications Marks for Drinking Water System & Plumbing Products
- Cleaning Your Aerators

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Parchment Water Hotline: 269.373.5346

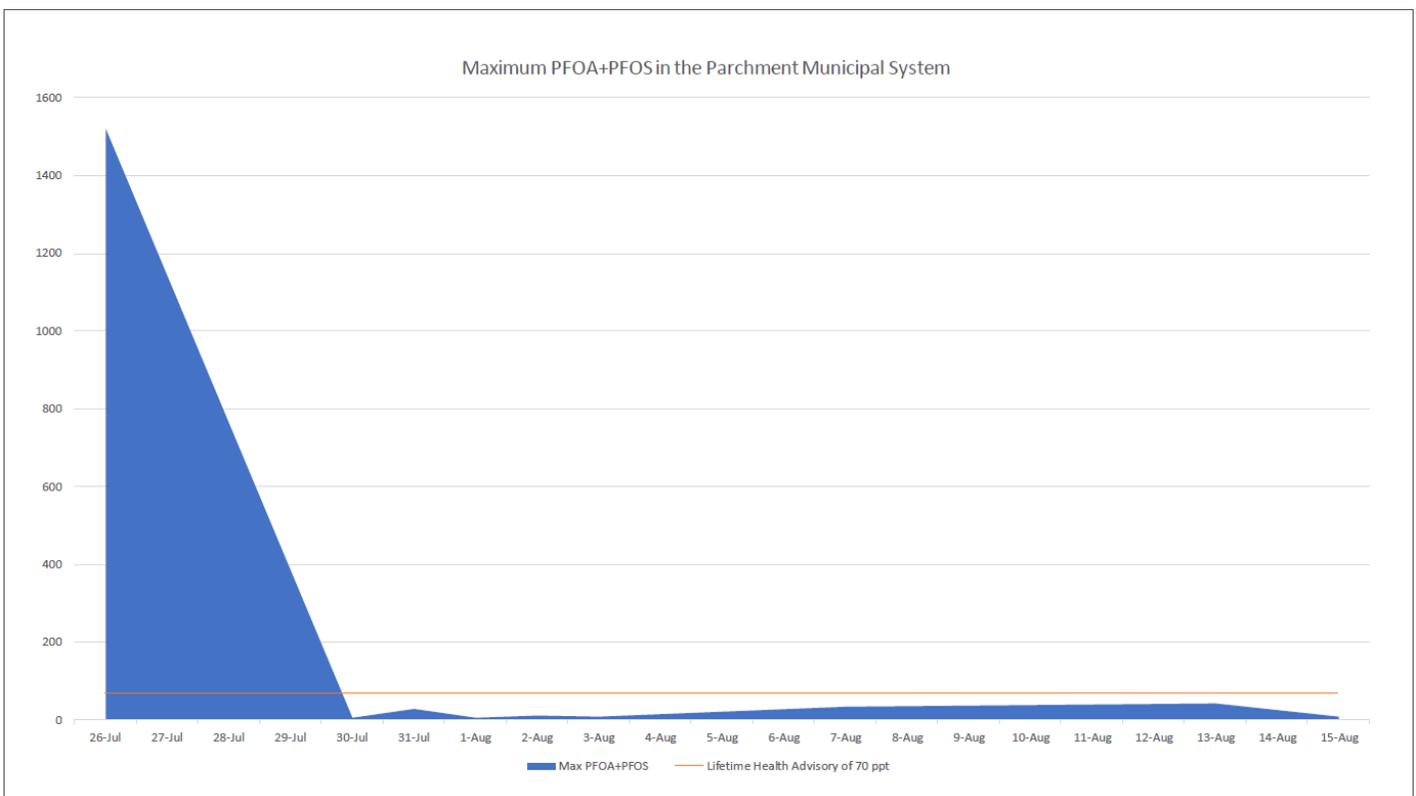
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Public Water and Public Schools Testing Results

The Parchment system is stabilized and capable of delivering water to customers that is compliant with Lifetime Health Advisory levels for PFOA and PFOS, with sampling results well below 70 parts per trillion (ppt). All Parchment Schools are on the municipal system, and not on a private water well.

The most recent tests for PFOA and PFOS for municipal water supply have results between 6 and 8 ppt. That is 176 times lower than the contamination of 1410 ppt discovered in July. The diagram (below) shows the maximum PFOA and PFOS in the Parchment Municipal System from July 26 through August 15.

Residents may access testing results for all public water and public schools supplies here: www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/0,9038,7-365-86510_87918-464299--,00.html. The Parchment Schools will not be listed separately on the school testing link as they are on the municipal supply system.



Water Distribution

The Water Distribution Center is open Tuesday and Thursday of this week from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Haven Reformed Church. The center will close permanently on Thursday, Aug. 30. after 7:00 p.m.

- Residents with a private residential water well that are East of Kalamazoo River and within the MDEQ Investigation Area may continue to pick-up bottled water. Those residents will be provided additional cases of water to see them through the installation of the filter for their private residential water well. Residents are asked to verify their address when they pick-up their water supply. On-site recycling is available for residents to return used water bottles.
- Residents connected to the City of Parchment’s municipal water supply system will no longer be provided bottled water since the “Do Not Drink” order has been lifted. Normal consumption of

drinking water for the customers of the Parchment municipal water system in both the City of Parchment and Cooper Township who have flushed their homes according to instruction may resume for all household purposes.

- Residents with a private residential water well outside of the MDEQ Investigation Area will no longer be provided bottled water. Residents with a private residential water well living within a 1.5 mile radius of the Parchment City wells were initially included in the “Do Not Drink” order and given bottled water. This action was taken out of an abundance of caution, and protection for public health, as the size of the plume and direction of contamination flow was not known at the time. MDEQ has determined that, at this time and based on the scientific data received, the investigation area does not need to extend further than the initial 1 mile radius from the City of Parchment wells.

Residential Water Wells

Testing Results

To date, MDEQ has sampled 199 residential wells and 3 irrigation wells. Results have been received for 140 residential wells and 3 irrigation well. The Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department has contacted those individuals about their results. At this time, MDEQ is not extending their investigation area past the 1 mile radius established.

PFAS Filters for Residents Tested

All private residential water wells located east of the Kalamazoo River that the MDEQ tested will be provided a point of use filter as part of the MDEQ investigation. Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department (HCS) in partnership with the Kalamazoo County Plumbers, Pipefitters & HVAC Local 357 will install all PFAS certified filters at no cost to residents.

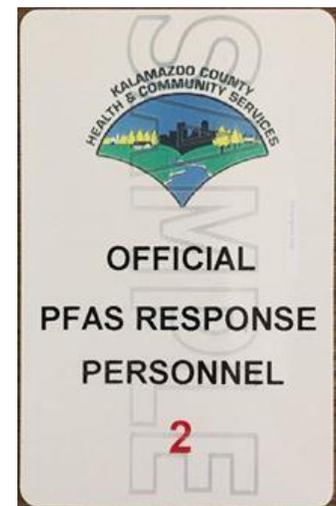
Last week, HCS Staff contacted all residents to set up appointments for Local 357 to install the units starting Monday, August 27. Installation appointments will continue through the week, ending on Friday, August 31. The Plumbers Union is working closely with HCS staff to ensure all residents have their water filters installed properly.

The Local 357 personnel are authorized to install filters. They can be identified by a specific badge (pictured right) provided by the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department. Anyone representing themselves from The Plumbers Union should have the badge visible at all times, and residents should ask to see it. The plumber will have the filter with them, and there will be no cost or payment required from the resident.

After the filter is installed, the homeowner that is serviced by their own water well can resume drinking the water.

Private Testing

Those residents who are outside the MDEQ Investigation Area and choose to have their water tested by an entity other than the MDEQ are strongly encouraged to assure that said entity uses proper protocols to collect and test those samples.



- For details on residential well testing by the State of Michigan, you can contact the DEQ Environmental Assistance Center at 800-662-9278. The EPA has a list of laboratories approved under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule Round 3 program using EPA Method 537 for PFAS testing: www.epa.gov/dwucmr/third-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule.
- The Department of Defense Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program maintains a list of labs for PFAS testing in materials other than drinking water at www.denix.osd.mil/edqw/accreditation/accreditedlabs.

Each laboratory has their own fee schedule. The State of Michigan does not endorse these labs. Additionally, the capacity of any laboratories to provide services consistent with the DEQ recommendations has not been verified, and these details should be addressed prior to contracting with any laboratory.

Parchment Water Hotline: 269-373-5346

The Parchment Water Hotline will continue to be available for residents to call Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. until Friday, September 7. If you have further questions after September 7, please call the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department's Environmental Health Unit at 269-373-5200.

On August 27, there were 82 total calls at an average of 9 per hour.

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Kalamazoo County Government
Health & Community Services Department

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