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CITY OF MONROE RECEIVES PFAS TEST RESULTS

Monroe, Michigan – The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) has notified local officials in the City of Monroe and Frenchtown Charter Township that it has found evidence of possible PFAS contamination in their water systems. Both systems share intakes in Lake Erie that service both municipal filtration plants. Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), a group of man-made chemicals used to repel oil and water, can lead to adverse human health effects. Local officials stress that the levels found in the water systems are well below the federal health guidelines, and the water is safe to drink.

Laboratory results received on September 6th taken September 3rd detected PFOS in a sample collected from EGLE's now monthly PFOS testing of the raw surface water at the intake in Lake Erie. The City of Monroe water system results from 09/03/19 show that perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) had 2 parts per trillion (ppt) and 15 parts per trillion (ppt), totaling 17 ppt found in the water. The total Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) found in the water was 23 ppt. **City of Monroe water test results from 09/03/19 are below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) lifetime health advisory (LHA) of 70 part per trillion (ppt, equal to 70 ng/L) for PFOA and PFOS combined, or individually if only one is present.** All past City of Monroe test results have been well below the EPA LHA level.

In a July 29th sample at the Deerfield Filtration Plant, on the River Raisin in Deerfield, Michigan, EGLE detected a spike in PFAS readings that instigated public water systems testing in the River Raisin watershed. These same systems were also tested last year by EGLE as part of its state-wide sampling effort and none of them showed significant PFAS contamination. Since the reported spike near Deerfield, sites downstream in the River Raisin Watershed and now along Lake Erie have recorded spiked PFAS levels.

Additional test results for the City of Monroe are being taken and will be publicly released on the city's web site when available. Full regional test results can be found on the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team website, www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse.

It is not uncommon to find low levels of PFAS in drinking water supplies. PFAS compounds are a group of emerging and potentially harmful manmade contaminants used in thousands of applications globally including firefighting foam, stain repellants, nonstick cookware, waterproof clothing, food wrappers, and many other consumer products. They do not break down in the environment and move easily into water.

In 2018, EGLE completed statewide testing on well water and community water supplies to determine if public health actions are needed. In 2019, EGLE is carrying out a statewide PFAS survey initiative to test drinking water from surface water community water supplies. This work is being completed to set a new clean-up standard for PFAS in drinking water in Michigan, currently the EPA LHA of 70 parts per trillion for PFOA and PFOS individually or combined is used.

The City of Monroe Water Department is committed to providing customers with quality drinking water, the water is safe for consumption. The City is working closely with EGLE to maintain drinking water quality and will continue to be active on any new PFAS information as it becomes available. With the test results being below the LHA and of a minimum risk level, future sampling will continue to monitor levels along with investigation and evaluation of operational modifications and treatment technology to reduce PFAS further.

For health related questions, contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) at 1-800-648-6942 or visit one of the websites below.

For information on PFAS including possible health outcomes, visit these websites:

- State of Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) website serving as the main resource for public information on PFAS contamination in Michigan www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse
- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ASTDR) website including health information, exposure, and links to additional resources www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) website including basic information, U.S. EPA actions, and links to informational resources www.epa.gov/pfas

Local residents who are concerned about the findings, have questions about the process going forward or would like to share their concerns may contact the Monroe Water Department at 734-384-9150 or visit our website at www.monroemi.gov.

Incorporated in 1817, the City of Monroe is a community that has a shared vision that seeks to balance the opportunities of economic development with the stewardship that is required for historic preservation. With a population of 20,733, Monroe is located about 17-miles north of Toledo, Ohio and about 35-miles south of Detroit. The City of Monroe is Michigan's third oldest community, and is also the county seat of Monroe County.

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