C-8 Testing

Putnam Community Water is providing information to its customers regarding recent C-8 testing.

In 2009 DuPont, now known as Chemours Company, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency entered into a Consent Order with regards to the presence of perflourooctanic acid or PFOA (often referred to as C-8) in certain drinking water supplies.

The EPA on May 19th, 2016 issued a Lifetime Health Advisory value for C-8 of 0.07 ug/L based on information in a document entitled Health Effects Support Document of Perflourooctanoic Acid (PFOA) (EPA, 2016) (https://www.epa.gov/gound-water-and-drinking-water/drinking -water-health-advisories-pfoa-and pfos).

Based on the new Lifetime Health Advisory value for PFOA, the Chemours Company agreed to offer sampling of area private and public water systems in certain geographic locations and to install water treatment technology if the water system’s finished water contains C-8 at concentrations greater than 0.07ug/L.

In the Fall of 2016, Putnam Community Water was contacted by Chemours to perform sampling of both our production wells and our finished water. The Board of Directors agreed to allow Chemours to test our water. These tests were done at no expense to the water company.

Results from that sampling showed C-8 concentrations of .075 ug/L for production well #5 and .088 ug/L for well #6. Results for the finished water were .023ug/L.

What that means is our production wells have concentrations of C-8 greater than the life time health advisory level of 0.07 ug/L. However, the results on our finished water that is supplied to customers is below the life time health advisory concentration. These results indicate our reverse osmosis water system is removing the PFOA contaminant. It is only showing up in the finished water as a result of blending the raw water back into the system.

Under the consent order agreement and based on the results for the finished water, Chemours would be under no obligation to do any further testing of our water. Putnam Community Water contacted Chemours and expressed our desire for continued quarterly monitoring of the production wells and finished water. Chemours has agreed to perform three additional quarters of sampling for both of our production wells and our finished water.

Putnam Community Water will be providing our customers with the results. They may be found by visiting our website at www.putnamwater.com