

Contact: Dave Loveday
Water Quality Association
International Headquarters & Laboratory
4151 Naperville Road, Lisle, Illinois 60532-3696 USA
Email: DLoveday@wqa.org
Telephone: 630 505 0160
Faxsimilie: 630 505 9637



WATER QUALITY ASSOCIATION PRESS RELEASE

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Official study on home removal of PFCs expected soon

Early indications point to successful elimination of chemical family that includes those in New Jersey groundwater

LISLE, Illinois — The Minnesota Department of Health is expected to announce final results this month of a study that has already found several water treatment devices that can remove a family of chemicals that includes perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), found recently in New Jersey.

Last week, DuPont acknowledged finding PFOA residues up to 35 times the state alert level in groundwater outside its Chambers Works plant in New Jersey. PFOAs are a kind of PFC (perfluorochemical).

Facing similar concerns last year, the state of Minnesota ordered a series of tests to find water treatment devices that can remove PFCs. The Minnesota Department of Health contracted with the Water Quality Association (WQA) and Water Science and Marketing, LLC (WSM) to perform the tests. WQA is one of three major independent testing laboratories that evaluate and certify water treatment devices and chemicals.

The first of two parts of the study, announced in January, found several devices that are “effective” and were sent on for field study. This second part of the testing is scheduled to be announced in May, according to a Fact Sheet available on the department’s Web site, health.state.mn.us.

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PFC removal testing

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Four reverse osmosis devices and one carbon device were found to be effective at removal.

More tests will be performed on two additional RO devices, the department said. Three additional carbon devices are also being further evaluated.

In New Jersey, DuPont tests were reported to have found levels at 12 to 1,400 parts per trillion in nine wells around Chambers Works, which is located in Deepwater, near the Delaware Memorial Bridge. PFOA is used to make Teflon and other goods.

According to the Minnesota Department of Health, studies show that nearly all people have some PFCs in their blood. How PFCs get into human blood is not known at this time. People could be exposed through food, water, use of commercial products or from the environment. Some PFCs stay in the human body for many years.

“In laboratory animal studies, high concentrations of PFCs cause harmful changes in the liver and other organs,” according to the department. Developmental problems have been seen in the offspring of rats and mice exposed to PFCs while pregnant.

The Water Quality Association is a non-profit international trade association representing the residential, commercial, industrial and small community water treatment industry. Its membership consists of both manufacturers as well as dealers/distributors of equipment. WQA is a resource and information source, a voice for the industry, an educator of professionals, a laboratory for product testing, and a communicator with the public. WQA has more than 2,500 members nationwide.