



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Spill Prevention and Response  
Contaminated Sites Program

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February 22, 2018

Andrew Ackerman, Environmental Manager  
City of Fairbanks  
800 Cushman Street  
Fairbanks, Alaska, 99701

Angie Spear, Division Operations Manager  
Fairbanks International Airport  
6450 Airport Way  
Fairbanks, Alaska, 99709

**Re: Trace Concentrations of PFOS and PFOA in GHU Water Supply**

Dear Mr. Ackerman and Ms. Spear:

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is writing to you because the City of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks International Airport are connecting property owners to the Golden Heart Utilities (GHU) and College Utilities Corporation (CUC) water supply to provide an alternative source of drinking water in areas where groundwater is contaminated with perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).

GHU recently found trace amounts of these compounds in the water supply that serves both GHU and CUC customers. The source of these compounds is not known. DEC is working with the utilities to evaluate possible sources of these compounds and monitor concentrations in the future, which are expected to remain at trace levels. PFOS and PFOA are present in many consumer products and are being found at low concentrations in water supplies across the nation.

The levels of PFOS and PFOA that GHU and CUC reported are shown in the table below. There are no enforceable drinking water standards for these compounds, but the levels found in the utilities' water supply are well below the Lifetime Health Advisory levels established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2016.

Compound	Levels in CUC Water	EPA Lifetime Health Advisory
PFOS	2.4 – 2.9 ppt	70 ppt
PFOA	2.9 – 3.5 ppt	70 ppt

ppt = parts per trillion

In a recent letter to the City of Fairbanks, located at <http://www.fairbanksalaska.us/golden-heart-utilities-publishes-2018-water-quality-report/>, the State of Alaska Environmental Public Health Program evaluated the sampling results and does not expect drinking water provided by GHU or CUC will result in adverse health effects. More information can be found in the Annual Consumer Confidence Water Quality Reports published by GHU and CUC, which are available at <http://www.akwater.com/>.

If you have any questions about this information, please feel free to contact Robert Burgess in DEC's Contaminated Sites Program (451-2153), Cindy Christian in DEC's Drinking Water Program (451-2138) or GHU's Customer Service at (479-3118).

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Sincerely,



Robert Burgess  
Environmental Program Specialist



Cindy Christian  
Environmental Program Manager

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Cc (via email): Marc Harmon, GHU/CUC  
Stacey Cooper, DHSS Environmental Public Health Program  
Marcy Nadel, Shannon & Wilson  
Bill O'Connell, DEC Contaminated Sites Program

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