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ROME WATER AND SEWER DIVISION – EPA UPDATE BRIEF (PFOA / PFOS)

July 10, 2019

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR OUR CUSTOMERS:

Rome Water and Sewer Division (RWSD) is committed to continuously providing safe, potable water to the citizens of Rome and Floyd County. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are manmade chemicals that have been the subject of ongoing studies and discussion. Many Americans are concerned about potential health impacts from exposure to these substances. **RWSD is pleased to report that all samples of RWSD drinking water taken during the 2016, 2017, 2018 calendar years and thus far in 2019 have been well below the EPA Health Advisory level for PFAS.** Thus far, in 2019, levels of PFAS have been Non-Detect (ND) in the samples taken.

In February of 2019, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its action plan concerning PFAS. A copy of the Action Plan and other information regarding PFAS can be found here: www.epa.gov/pfas.

The key EPA actions addressing PFAS-related challenges are:

- Expand toxicity information
- Develop new tools to identify PFAS in the environment
- Evaluate cleanup
- Develop guidance of contaminated ground water
- Use enforcement to address PFAS exposure in the environment
- Use legal tools to prevent future PFAS contamination
- Address PFAS in drinking water
- Develop new tools and materials to communicate about PFAS

According to the EPA's Action Plan, PFAS are found in a wide array of consumer and industrial products, and most people in the United States have been exposed to them. Exposure to the chemicals can come from household products, food, and water, among other sources.

PFAS have been called "forever chemicals" because of their persistence in the environment. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has found elevated PFAS levels relating to nonstick, stain resistant compounds in food preparation. PFAS levels in half the meat and fish tested were double the current EPA advisory of 70 parts per trillion for drinking water.

<https://apnews.com/e9c5fa42a1244de48e3edea7a1bb14eb>

FDA: Sampling finds toxic nonstick compounds in some food

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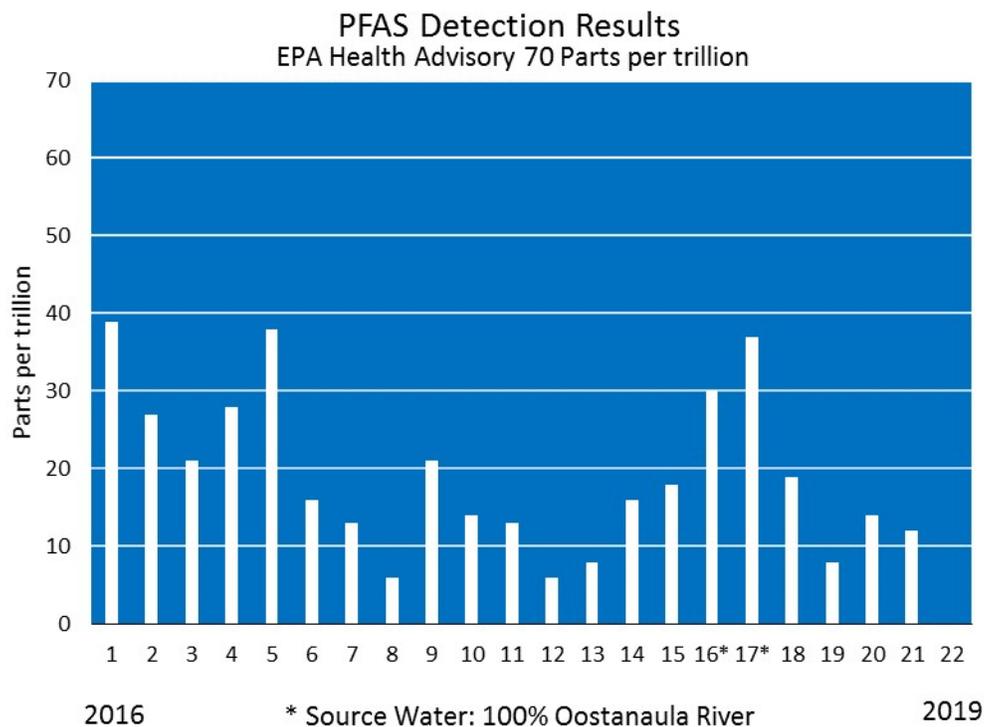
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After extensive studies and pilot testing, RWSD staff implemented the installation of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) within existing filter beds at a capital cost, to date, of \$1,000,000.00. Going forward, RWSD expects to incur annual GAC replacement costs of approximately \$500,000.00.

RWSD is actively seeking further remediation for PFAS compounds, and is currently engineering/designing a new raw water pump station and transmission main on the Etowah River. The anticipated capital cost of these projects is \$10,000,000.00, with construction being completed in 2021. Pilot testing for Ultra Filtration (UF) and Reverse Osmosis (RO) will begin soon thereafter.

Safe, potable drinking water is provided to the citizens of Rome and Floyd County through diligent planning and stringent evaluation of evolving technology. Below is a bar chart showing all samples taken for finished water during 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 calendar years. Of the 22 samples, the highest PFAS residual was 39 parts per trillion, which is well below the EPA Health Advisory of 70 parts per trillion. A successful pilot program of GAC provided results of below 20 parts per trillion for all of 2018. In 2019, finish water results have been Non-Detect (ND) for PFAS.



RWSD will continue to provide updates regarding drinking water standards and efforts taken to ensure your drinking water is safe. For more information regarding the EPA Health Advisory, please visit: <https://www.romefloyd.com/water-quality> - Water Quality Brief.