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February 23, 2022

RE: PRESS RELEASE. Rothschild Water Utility Voluntary PFAS Testing Results and Action Plan

On February 2, 2022, the Rothschild Water Utility completed a *voluntary* round of sampling for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in our drinking water system. This notice is to inform you of the results and the next steps that the utility has and will be taking.

In the afternoon of February 18, 2022, the Village received the test results indicating that PFAS were detected in the samples at levels that we believe indicate additional action was warranted. PFAS concentrations were measured in each of our four wells at levels ranging from below to just above the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) recommended groundwater standards. The utility consulted with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to discuss the test results and start the process of an appropriate action plan.

Based on the water sampling results, *immediate* action was taken and Well #4 was taken offline within an hour of learning of concerning levels of PFAS. Additionally, we have calculated and combined our remaining wells in a way that will provide all customers with drinking water *below* all recommended PFAS standards. The Rothschild Water utility is *not* in violation of any current DNR drinking water standards or regulations. The risk to human health is believed to be low at this time. The Rothschild Water Utility will confirm that water leaving the treatment plant is below all recommended standards and guidance levels by resampling the week of February 21, 2022. Results are expected to be available 2-3 weeks from the time of sampling and be available at www.rothschildwi.com.

We have been and are currently committed to working with the DNR and DHS to determine how corrective actions should be taken. A full list of the sampling results, including the individual PFAS compounds, the reported concentrations and DHS recommended standards, can be found at www.rothschildwi.com. This webpage will be updated as soon as additional results are available.

The DNR, DHS, and Rothschild Water Utility are **not** recommending you change the way you use your water at this time. However, if you are concerned about your PFAS exposure, you can use an alternative water source for drinking, making beverages, infant formula, and making foods that use a lot of water, like flavored gelatin or rice.

Alternative water sources may include:

- ✓ Bottled water that has been purified or filtered.
- ✓ Other sources of water that have been tested for PFAS and do not have levels above recommended standards.
- ✓ Filtered water from a pitcher, sink, or whole-house filter system with a certified filter technology.
 - A granular activated carbon (GAC) filter that meets ANSI/NSF Standard 53 or a reverse osmosis (RO) filter with an included GAC component can filter out PFAS. These numbers will be printed on the filter and/or packaging. More information about filtering out PFAS from drinking water is available at [Reducing PFAS in Your Drinking Water \(wisconsin.gov\)](https://www.wisconsin.gov/health/healthy-living/healthy-living-topics/healthy-living-topics-reduce-pfas).

NOTE: Boiling water does not remove PFAS.

Why Are We Sampling for PFAS?

In order to be proactive and protective of the citizens of Rothschild's health, we made the decision to sample for PFAS compounds in our drinking water *voluntarily*.

PFAS have been found in some drinking water supplies where PFAS releases have occurred in the environment. PFAS can be found in fire-fighting foams, stain repellants, nonstick cookware, waterproof clothing, food wrappers, and are used in many industrial processes. They do not break down in the environment and move easily into water. Exposure to high levels of PFAS for long periods of time have been associated with various health effects including increased cholesterol, decreased vaccine response, low birth weight, increased risk of thyroid disease, decreased fertility in woman and high blood pressure.

DHS has made health-based advisory level recommendations, also referred to as recommended groundwater standards for 12 individual PFAS compounds and a combined value for 6 compounds.

The Rothschild Water Utility is committed to providing our consumers with quality drinking water. As your water supplier, we will continue to work closely with the DNR to maintain the quality of your water.

Specific health information regarding PFAS compounds with health advisory recommendations in WI can be found here:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/gws-cycle10.htm>
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/gws-cycle11.htm>
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm>
[Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) | US EPA](https://www.epa.gov/pfas)

Sincerely,

Gary D. Olsen

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Village Administrator

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