



MEMO

TO:	MAYOR, COUNCIL, CITY MANAGER
FROM:	MICHAEL CRAWFORD, CHIEF OPERATOR-WATER PLANT
RE:	PFAS UPDATE – WATER QUALITY
DATE:	SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

By our duty to safeguard the health and safety of all people who drink and use Collinsville’s tap water, we are updating our recommendations and releasing new PFAS information to the residents of Collinsville.

A brief recap: The term “PFAS” refers to a group of chemicals that were manufactured in the United States in the past. PFAS products are still being produced in other places around the world. PFAS chemicals do not break down in nature. These chemicals have become a global-scale contamination issue. Every living person today already has trace amounts of these chemicals in their blood. High enough concentrations of these chemicals are linked to a number of health conditions, including some types of cancer. People can be exposed to these chemicals through many consumer products, not just water. Clothing, soaps, shampoos, conditioners, deodorants, food packaging, and many other products contain compounds of PFAS. Over 2,000 water utilities nationwide have tested positive for PFAS in their source water and face similar challenges to Collinsville. We are not alone.

We continue to test both our raw well water and our finished tap water to monitor PFAS levels. In September of 2024, the water department made the decision to shut down well #15 due to elevated PFAS contamination. Testing at that time confirmed that all other raw water wells were producing finished tap water with no detectible levels of PFAS.

New testing in 2025 confirmed that PFAS contamination in the raw water has increased. PFAS levels in the remaining wells have risen to the point that our current treatment system can no longer fully remove PFAS from our finished tap water.

Finished tap water samples collected in May and June of 2025 show detectible levels of PFAS. The City of Collinsville recommends all residents filter their tap water before using it for drinking or cooking. Washing clothes and bathing or showering in the finished tap water is safe. Charcoal filters, reverse osmosis (RO), and anionic exchange point-of-use filters are three options known to remove PFAS.

This is a temporary precaution. Currently new treatment methods are being engineered and designed for the Collinsville water plant. Total PFAS removal from the finished tap water is on schedule to begin early to mid-2029. Until then, filtering the tap water before drinking or cooking is encouraged.

Thank you,
Michael Crawford
Chief Operator – Collinsville Water Plant