

Providing excellent water quality to our customers is the top priority of Parkland Light & Water. As part of that commitment we have been voluntarily testing our wells for perfluoroalkyl substances, referred to as PFAS.

What are PFASs?

PFOA and PFOS are fluorinated organic chemicals that are part of a larger group of chemicals referred to as PFASs. PFOA and PFOS have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. They have been used to make carpets, clothing, and fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food and other materials such as cookware that are resistant to water, grease or stains. They are also used for firefighting at airfields and in a number of industrial processes. PFCs have been found at very low levels both in the environment and in the blood samples of the general U.S. population

Parkland Light and Water Company

Parkland Light and Water Company tested its drinking water wells as part of the UCMR3 monitoring, and no PFASs were detected at that time. Because of detections in late 2016 at JBLM-McChord Field just west of Parkland, Parkland began proactively monitoring for PFAS starting in early 2017. The likely source is PFAS-based firefighting foam that was used at the base for decades, until the early 1990s. Levels of PFOS and PFOA well below EPA’s LHAL have been detected in two of Parkland’s wells located about ¾ of a mile east of the middle of the runway at McCord Field. These two wells draw from a very shallow but extremely productive aquifer apparently flowing mostly from the southeast. Parkland continues to monitor these wells.

What levels of PFOS and PFOA are safe for humans?

The EPA has established a Health Advisory Level for PFOS and PFOA of 70 parts per trillion (ppt), designed to protect even the most sensitive populations over a lifetime of exposure. A part per trillion is equivalent to one grain of sugar in an Olympic size swimming pool. PFAS are not currently regulated, meaning there isn’t a rule that requires treatment if readings are above a particular level, but Washington Department of Health is considering implementing a regulation that would require treatment. We are being proactive in protecting water quality for our customers and are not waiting for a rule to be implemented. To date, all levels found in the Parkland system have been below EPA health advisory levels.

EPA Health Advisory Level for PFOS + PFOA = 70 ppt

P-Compounds	Wells 7 & 9	Wells 7 & 9	Wells 7 & 9	Well 7	Well 9	Well 7	Well 9	Well 7	Well 9
	Mar-17	Nov-17	Dec-18	Jun-19	Jun-19	Jan-20	Jan-20	Jan-21	Jan-21
Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)		4.8	0	0	0	0	0	2.4	2.5
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)		21	18	4.6	5.0	7.6	6.6	6.9	6.8
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	7.7	24	17	7.2	7.4	14.0	12.0	14.0	15.0
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	0	18	5.4	5.7	5.9	6.0	5.5	9.7	10.0
Perfluorobutane sulfonate (PFBS)		4.6		5.7	6.7	6.8	6.2	6.2	6.2

all levels in Parts Per Trillion (PPT)