

From our drinking water provider:



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Anderson Regional Joint Water System (ARJWS) is aware of the proposed Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on March 3, 2023.

PFAS are a group of manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1940s. There are thousands of different PFAS, some of which have been more widely used and studied than others. PFAS are often found in products such as fire retardants, firefighting foams, nonstick surfaces used in cooking, UV protectant, water proofing, plastic wrapping, containers used for food, etc.

The EPA assumes that 20% of PFAS exposure comes from drinking water. 80% of exposure comes from other sources, such as household goods, fast-food packaging, clothing, carpets, etc. The EPA also assumes individuals drink 2.5 L (a little over half a gallon) of the same water per day, every day, for 70 years.

The proposed MCLs are for six different compounds. If adopted, drinking water utilities will be legally required to comply with the MCLs within three years. Prior to the EPA issuing MCLs, ARJWS conducted tests for PFAS in Lake Hartwell in August of 2022. You can see the results compared with the proposed MCLs in the chart below:

Compound	Proposed MCL	ARJWS Level	Unit
PFOA	4.0	2.8	parts per trillion (ppt)
PFOS	4.0	2.1	ppt
PFBS, PFNA, PFHxS, GenX	1.0	0.0014	Hazard Index (unitless)

❖ *Hazard Index is an established EPA tool to understand health risks from chemical mixtures. It is a combination equation of the four PFAS listed.*

ARJWS is below the proposed MCLs. Even so, monitoring will continue, coupled with our ongoing commitment to source water protection efforts. ARJWS is fully committed to supplying the highest and safest quality water to the 200,000 citizens within our districts.

Should you or your customers have any questions or concerns, please contact Jeff Caldwell at 864-934-0625 (jcaldwell@arjwater.com) or Scott Banks sbanks@cityofandersonsc.com.