

## What to know about PFAS and their presence in the Walloon Lake watershed

- Since the 1940's a number of products made to repel oil and water as well as fire retardants contain the man-made chemicals, perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Today, PFAS are found in nonstick cookware, flame- and water-resistant clothing, food wrappers, plumber's tape, stain prevention products, and even coatings on wires.
- PFAs are also used in heavy equipment fluids (think farming, logging, construction) so dispersal into the environment is not limited to manufacturing areas.
- The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is using the current level of 70 ppt (parts per trillion) as the threshold for state action.
- Walloon Lake Village Water System was tested as part of the MDEQ's project to test all municipal water systems in the state.
- The water tested in Walloon Lake's water system contains PFAS at a level of 19 ppt - still quite low and below any threshold for state action.
- The Walloon Lake Village water system is privately held and managed. Melrose Township is currently in negotiation with the system owner for a potential purchase.
- Because PFAS is an emerging contaminant, there is a lot of information we still do not know such as: What do we do now? How can I protect my home and family? How do we detect the source and clean up?
- PFAS have been linked to many health problems, although research is still on-going to help us understand the levels of danger, correlation or causation of PFAS presence in drinking water and whether future health problems will be discovered.
- Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council is a good resource for both policy and water quality questions: Dave Edwards (water quality) and Jennifer McKay (policy) are available to talk. 231-347-1181
- Freshwater Future is a policy voice for Great Lakes residents and has purchased the equipment to make testing for those on individual wells (not on systems tested by the MDEQ) available at an affordable rate. Testing will be up and running hopefully by the end of the year. You can call Ann Baughman at Freshwater Future for information at 231-348-8200.
  - Test kits will be available for \$60 and contain instructions for taking a sample at your home. Homeowners will also be responsible for shipping the sample to the UM Biological Station for analysis.
- The Walloon Lake Association and the Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy have no authority nor input as to the management of drinking water systems. Our mission-driven work has an effect on protecting surface water quality, encouraging sustainable land management and encouraging the enjoyment of the watershed.
  - Good work on the surface means better water quality of groundwater which then becomes the water many people drink from their wells.
  - We are working with our area partners to stay informed on this emerging issue and will work to keep residents in our service area as informed as possible.
- Little is known about the presence of PFAS in surface water (our lakes, streams, wetlands, ponds) but along with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council we hope to make testing for these contaminants part of our water quality monitoring next year.

\*Please contact Heather Huffstutler, WLTC Director of Conservation Programs for more information or if you are interested in helping with our water quality monitoring program in the future.

## Links for information and websites:

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality MPART website:

<https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/>

Freshwater Future Resources

<https://freshwaterfuture.org/ourissues/drinking-water/pfas/>

MLIVE report

<https://pfasproject.com/2018/07/16/mlive-how-to-protect-yourself-from-pfas-contamination/>

State of Michigan, PFAS in fish listing;

[https://www.michigan.gov/som/0,4669,7-192-45414\\_45929\\_83470\\_83473-463860--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/som/0,4669,7-192-45414_45929_83470_83473-463860--,00.html)

Environmental Working Group, map of known PFAS contamination,

[https://www.ewg.org/interactive-maps/2017\\_pfa/#.W32z6uhKiUk](https://www.ewg.org/interactive-maps/2017_pfa/#.W32z6uhKiUk)

Center for Disease Control, An Overview of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and Interim Guidance for Clinicians Responding to Patient Exposure Concerns,

[https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/docs/pfas\\_clinician\\_fact\\_sheet\\_508.pdf](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/docs/pfas_clinician_fact_sheet_508.pdf)

Center for Disease Control, Toxicological Profile for Perfluoroalkyls Draft for Public Comment June 2018

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp200.pdf>

Minnesota Department of Health, PFAS Fact Sheet

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/hazardous/topics/pfcshealth.pdf>

Michigan's Contaminant Induced Human Health Crisis Addressing Michigan's Future By Facing the Challenge of the Evolving Nature of Environmental Contamination

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/1773-18\\_Response\\_612346\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/1773-18_Response_612346_7.pdf)

Michigan Radio

<http://www.michiganradio.org/post/new-cdc-report-finds-federal-pfas-health-standard-too-lax>

WZZM 13

<https://www.wzzm13.com/article/news/local/water-worries/controversial-health-report-released-recommends-lower-pfas-risk-level/69-565980809>

Guidelines--how to protect yourself from PFAS

<https://pfasproject.com/2018/07/16/mlive-how-to-protect-yourself-from-pfas-contamination/>