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City of Wooster, OH8504512

Subject: Upcoming Statewide Water Testing

Dear Customer:

Ohio and states nationwide are faced with challenges related to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which have been manufactured and used for years in everyday items such as nonstick cookware, water-resistant clothing and personal care products. PFAS have also been widely used in firefighting foams, at military installations and fire training facilities. PFAS are classified as contaminants of emerging concern, meaning that research into the harm they may cause to human health is still ongoing.

In an announcement on September 27, 2019, Governor Mike DeWine directed the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to develop a statewide PFAS action plan to analyze the prevalence of these substances in Ohio's drinking water. Under this plan, Ohio EPA is coordinating sampling and analysis through contracted environmental firms and certified laboratories, of approximately 1,500 public water systems statewide. These systems provide water to cities, mobile home parks, schools, and daycares and serve approximately 90 percent of Ohio's population. Sampling will be ongoing throughout this calendar year and Ohio EPA has a goal of having all sampling completed by the end of 2020.

The City of Wooster will be one of the many drinking water systems tested in this sampling initiative. Ohio EPA will be working closely with environmental firms and certified testing laboratories throughout the entire process to ensure our system is provided with results in a timely manner. Ohio EPA will be posting sample results as they become available at pfas.ohio.gov. The Agency will also be actively working with any public water systems that identify levels of PFAS in drinking water to ensure the validity of data and identify appropriate response measures, including outreach and communication with customers.

If you have any questions about the sampling that will occur at our public water system, please contact Nate Coey, Utilities Manager or visit our website at <https://www.woosteroh.com/water>.

Ohio EPA and ODH are also closely coordinating on outreach and educational materials for residents on PFAS, including health-related information and steps to reduce potential exposures. A state website has been set up to provide stakeholders with information about PFAS at pfas.ohio.gov. We encourage you to visit this website for helpful information about PFAS and reducing your exposure risks.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

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