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ADEM Announces EPA National Health Advisory

MONTGOMERY - Today, EPA in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and others, issued a final health advisory for PFOS and PFOA. All information is available at the following link:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>. These compounds are manmade chemicals that may be found in nonstick cookware, carpet protection products, firefighting foams, and waterproof clothing.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) has been working with EPA, the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) and others for more than 10 years to monitor levels of PFOS and PFOA in surface water, drinking water, and fish tissue. ADEM and EPA have required all drinking water systems in Alabama serving more than 10,000 people, and selected systems serving less than 10,000 people, to test for these and other emerging contaminants. If a drinking water system detected these contaminants in its drinking water, the information is included in the annual Consumer Confidence Report which is provided to its customers and is also available in ADEM's eFile system.

Water systems in Alabama where tests have shown concentrations of PFOS and PFOA to be above the final health advisory level are: West Morgan-East Lawrence Water Authority; Gadsden Water Works & Sewer Board; Centre Sewer Board; V.A.W. (Vinemont Anon West Point) Water Systems, Inc.; West Lawrence Water Co-op; Northeast Alabama Water District; Southside Water Works and Sewer Board; and, the Utilities Board of Rainbow City. Typical sources of PFOS and PFOA in drinking water are facilities that manufactured those compounds and industries that used those compounds in their manufacturing processes.

ADEM partners with ADPH by providing monitoring data which ADPH utilizes to determine possible health effects and appropriate health recommendations.

While any health advisory is understandably a cause for concern, citizens can be assured ADEM has and will continue to provide technical assistance to any affected water system to implement measures that address the EPA health advisory and any health recommendations determined by ADPH.

Any questions regarding monitoring should be directed to ADEM at (334) 271-7955, and questions regarding health related matters should be directed to ADPH at (334) 206-5971.

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