



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of
Health and Social Services**

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
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January 19, 2018

Mayor Jim Matherly
800 Cushman Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Dear Mayor Matherly:

In December 2017, Golden Heart Utilities/College Utilities Corporation (GHU/CUC) contacted the Environmental Public Health Program to inform us that they had detected trace amounts of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in their water wells. In Fairbanks and some other cities in the U.S., these chemicals in groundwater originated from the use of certain fire-fighting foams that contain PFAS.

The levels of PFAS GHU/CUC reported for Fairbanks represent very low levels of these contaminants. For perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), the levels ranged from 2.4 to 2.9 parts per trillion (ppt) and for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) from 2.9 to 3.5 ppt, or a combined maximum of the two chemicals of 6.4 ppt. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set a lifetime health advisory (LHA) level for PFOS and PFOA — individually or combined— of no more than 70 ppt. The LHA is a conservative value, designed to protect even the most sensitive populations, including breastfed infants and unborn babies, from adverse health effects.

The levels of PFAS detected in GHU/CUC water are more than ten times lower than the EPA LHA. Given the low levels of PFAS in this water, the State of Alaska Environmental Public Health Program does not expect that drinking the water from GHU/CUC should result in adverse health effects.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at (907) 269-8016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacey Cooper".

Stacey Cooper, M.S.
Health Assessor
Environmental Public Health Program