



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Village of Sparta Water Testing Results

In response to citizen concern and recent events in which some water supplies in Kent County showed the presence of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) the Village of Sparta had its municipal well system tested for chemicals related to PFAS.

The test results indicated that Well #2 had the chemical Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid (PFBS) at 3.3 parts per trillion (ppt). The test results also indicated that Well #3, 4 & 5 were non-detect for any chemicals tested, including PFBS. All of the samples were taken from the well houses and were taken prior to any Village water treatment process. For informational purposes 1 ppt would be the equivalent of 1 grain of sand in an Olympic size swimming pool.

What is Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid (PFBS)? It is one of a group of related chemicals known as perfluorochemicals (PFC's). These are part of a larger group of chemicals called Per & Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). This group of chemicals is commonly used in non-stick and stain-resistant consumer products, food packaging, fire-fighting foam, and industrial processes.

The Village contacted the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) following the test results and is awaiting guidance from the MDEQ on how to proceed with this issue. The Village will work with the MDEQ and the Kent County Health Department to try and address this issue and provide information to the public. For the time being, Well #2 will remain offline and the Village will only be supplying customer's water from Well #3, Well #4, Well #5. This procedure will remain in place until the Village understands what the level of PFBS in Well #2 means.

The Village will post the test results on our website, when additional information or guidance is available from the MDEQ we will provide it to the public. The Village's goal is to provide the highest quality drinking water, be as transparent as possible about this process, and provide information as it becomes available to citizens. The Village will continue to monitor its water supply as the MDEQ further investigates the issue.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the water test results please contact Julius Suchy, Village Manager at 616-887-8251 or jsuchy@spartami.org.

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