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RE: Follow-Up to Treated Water Supply from City of Corinth Gas & Water Department

On May 19, 2016, EPA issued lifetime health advisories for two PFAS substances: perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). PFAS stands for perand polyfluoroalkyl substances, a group of thousands of man-made chemical compounds in use since the 1940s to make products resistant to high temperatures, water, and stains. The advisories were not regulatory but provided information on human health effects from a lifetime of exposure to PFOA and PFOS from drinking water. The health advisory level was a combined 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and PFOS.

PFOA and PFOS are two PFAS compounds with evidence of negative adverse health effects after exposure at very low concentrations. PFOA and PFOS were phased out of production by most U.S. manufacturers in the mid-2000s. However, PFOA and PFOS can still be imported into the U.S. through consumer products, and continued PFAS production and use can lead to discoveries in soil, air, and drinking water sources.

An individual's exposure to these PFAS can vary due to a number of factors. Beyond drinking water, PFAS exposure can come from consumer products such as cookware, cosmetics, food wrappings, stain/water-resistant clothing, carpet and furniture treatments, and even dental floss and toilet paper. Additionally, people can be exposed to PFAS by eating certain foods such as fish that may contain PFAS.

On March 14, 2023, the EPA announced the first-ever national proposed national drinking water standards – also known as Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) - for PFOA and PFOS. The EPA also proposed an enforceable MCL on a combination of four more PFAS compounds: PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and HFPO-DA (otherwise known as GenX). This proposed standard would place limits on any water containing a mixture of one or more of these four compounds. The "Hazard Index" formula will be utilized to determine if the combined levels of these four PFAS pose a potential risk.

The EPA's announcement started public comment and scientific review processes that are currently taking place. After these processes are complete, the EPA's final drinking water standards may differ from the proposed MCLs and Hazard Index that were announced in March. When EPA issues the final MCLs and Hazard Index, it will also announce an effective date set in the future so water providers have time to meet the new standards. The effective date for the final MCLs and Hazard Index is expected to be three years after the final standards are established. CGW coordinated with an approved analytical laboratory service to conduct PFAS testing of water samples obtained from CGW's water distribution system and our raw water source. The Lab results were released to CGW on September 1, 2023 and reviewed by the Mississippi Department of Health.

The EPA's Proposed maximum contaminant level (MCL) for PFOA is \leq 4.0 ppt (parts per trillion gallons) and \leq 4.0 ppt for PFOS. The water samples obtained from CGW's distribution system (filtered/treated water) and the raw water source both exceed EPA's proposed MCLs. Regarding the four PFAS compounds covered under the proposed Hazard Index - PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and HFPO-DA, the Hazard Index calculations were conducted on PFNA, PFHxS, and HFPO-DA but were not conducted on the PFBS due to the substance not being listed on the lab report.

These proposed MCLs will be used as guidance until the final regulations are published. The treated water supply from CGW continues to meet all water quality requirements established by the Mississippi State Department of Health. The EPA implemented the fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5) in 2023 requiring PFAS testing during 2023-2025 to review data and make rule revisions if needed. The EPA must follow the entire regulatory development process before the proposed MCLs and Hazard Index become the final standards water utilities must meet.

Although the EPA does not require any actions until the proposed PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) is finalized, CGW will be proactive by working closely with the Mississippi State Department of Health and Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality to make the necessary water treatment system upgrades to meet the EPA's new PFSA proposed rules once they become regulation. CGW will continue performing additional water sampling, working closely with state authorities, and providing consumers with consistent, accurate information about water tests.

The City of Corinth Public Utilities Commission will take legal action against organizations that we know are the sources of PFAS to help fund the costs associated with testing and treatment. In addition, CGW will actively seek federal grants through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to upgrade CGW's treatment facility to achieve no PFAS in our drinking water. Our goal is to secure funding for the technological solutions identified to protect our customers by removing these contaminants from our water supply.

As a customer, you have the right to be informed of this matter and that CGW is taking immediate measures to mitigate any associated risks. We value you as a customer, and our commitment is to provide you safe water supply at the lowest cost possible. CGW's lab results along with other information released by EPA concerning PFAS will be posted on CGW's website: www.corinthgasandwater.com

Sincerely, J*ohn M. Rhodes*

John M. Rhodes Corinth Gas & Water Department