



Staff Report

Operations – Water & Wastewater Services

Report To: COW - Operations, Planning and Building Services
Meeting Date: July 7, 2025
Report Number: OPS.25.031
Title: Drinking Water Analysis for PFA's
Prepared by: Allison Kershaw, Manager of Water & Wastewater Services

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report OPS.25.031, entitled "Drinking Water Analysis for PFA's" for their information

B. Overview

The Town submitted a raw drinking water sample and a treated drinking water sample for Per and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAs) analysis. This staff report provides Council with the results of this analysis.

C. Background

PFAs are a large group of human-made chemicals that have been in use since the 1940s. They are in a wide range of industrial and consumer products due to their resistance to heat, water and oil. They are composed of a carbon-fluorine bond, which is one of the strongest in organic chemistry. This makes them highly stable, resistant to degradation and therefore persistent in the environment and the human body.

D. Analysis

On March 5th, 2025, Staff sampled both raw water and treated water from the Thornbury Water Treatment Plant and submitted the samples for PFAs analysis. The samples were analyzed for thirty-five (35) different PFA compounds. Of the thirty-five (35) compounds that were tested for, thirty-two (32) of the results were less than the reported detection limit (RDL) of the analyte.

In the raw water sample, three analytes that included results above the RDL include n-Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA), 1.2ng/L, n-Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), 0.88ng/L, and Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), 0.87ng/L.

In the treated water sample, three analytes that included results above the RDL include n-Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA), 1.4ng/L, n-Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), 0.94ng/L, and Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), 0.86ng/L. Please see attachment #1, the Certificate of Analysis for the complete set of results.

As of June 2025, Ontario's drinking water standards for PFAs are not explicitly defined in provincial regulations. Ontario Regulation 169/03, which establishes drinking water quality standards under the Safe Drinking water Act, does not currently include specific limits for PFAs.

Health Canada has set an objective for the sum of 25 specific PFAS compounds in drinking water at 30ng/L. The Town's drinking water samples that were analyzed were significantly lower than Health Canada's objective.

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders

F. Environmental Impacts

This analysis provides a baseline for PFAs in the Town's drinking water system.

G. Financial Impacts

PFAs analysis in drinking water does not have a direct financial impact; however, if this becomes a regulated compound for a drinking water system, there will be a financial impact due to the high cost of analysis.

H. In Consultation With

Meg Boyd – Water & Wastewater Compliance Coordinator

Rob Gilchrist – Water Supervisor

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Allison Kershaw, Manager of Water & Wastewater Services managerwww@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

1. Attachment 1 – Certificate of Analysis for PFAs Testing

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Kershaw,
Manager of Water & Wastewater Services

Alan Pacheco
Director of Operations

For more information, please contact:
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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	OPS.25.031 Drinking Water Analysis for PFA's.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1 Certificate of Analysis for PFAs testing.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jun 4, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Allison Kershaw - Jun 3, 2025 - 11:32 AM

Alan Pacheco - Jun 4, 2025 - 11:54 AM