



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Pullman celebrates 50th anniversary of Safe Drinking Water Act during Drinking Water Week

Pullman, Washington -The **City of Pullman** joins communities across North America in celebrating Drinking Water Week, an annual observance led by the [American Water Works Association](#). Taking place May 5-11 this year, Drinking Water Week serves to highlight the importance of safe drinking water and recognize the tireless efforts of local water professionals who ensure its availability. This year's observance coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

The drinking water supplied to homes and businesses in Pullman, as well as surrounding areas, comes from the Palouse Groundwater Basin. There are two major aquifers in the basin which are referred to as the lower and upper aquifers; currently, lower aquifer wells are the only sources being used for municipal water in Pullman. "Water from the Palouse Basin Aquifer is drawn by four Pullman city wells, treated with disinfectant and fluoride, and sent into the water system. The water has been passing through the Earth, one of the best filters we have, for 16,000 years. Every day, Operations crew monitor water quality and production. Monthly, quarterly, annual, and multi-year testing confirm water safety." according to Operations Supervisor, Taylor Musburger.

In recent years news surrounding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) "forever chemicals" in drinking water has become a significant point of discussion. In February of this year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) posted data confirming 70 million people have drinking water that has tested positive for PFAS.

The City of Pullman has implemented twice a year testing for PFAS, which began in the Fall of 2023. Two cycles of testing have occurred on the city's water supply, and all samples came back with no detection of PFAS in the City of Pullman drinking water supply. Testing was conducted by Anatek Labs in Moscow using the Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule ([UCMR5](#)) requirements recently established by the EPA.

As we recognize the value of clean, safe water provided to residents, the city would also like to recognize the work that Operations staff do daily to ensure the safe distribution of water to customers in Pullman.

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