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ROME WATER AND SEWER DIVISION – EPA UPDATE BRIEF (PFOA / PFOS)

May 25, 2016

IMPORANT INFORMATION FOR OUR CUSTOMERS:

Rome Water and Sewer Division is vigilant about our responsibility to protect the public health of our community of families and friends by delivering safe drinking water. The RWSD operates on the firm belief that its customers deserve timely and understandable information about changes in federal drinking water regulations and health advisories. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) constantly assesses chemicals and contaminants that may be of concern, and then issues advisories based on the latest science and evidence available at the time. Drinking water regulations are complex and often difficult to understand, so we want to provide you with information that allows you to make informed choices without creating undue alarm.

While consumer products and food are a large source of exposure to these chemicals for most people, drinking water can be an additional source in some communities. PFOA and PFOS are chemicals that have been used in an array of consumer products such as cookware, clothing, fabrics for furniture, carpets, etc., and EPA reports that most people have been exposed to them.

On May 19, 2016, EPA released a revised lifetime health advisory for Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA). The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has confirmed that **drinking water leaving the City of Rome’s treatment plant is well below the EPA lifetime health advisory limit of 70 Parts Per Trillion (PPT)**. This is based on recent testing of water samples analyzed and confirmed by an EPA-approved laboratory.

The RWSD is committed to providing the safest drinking water possible for Rome/Floyd County including the over 100 RWSD employees who strive daily to protect our community water. RWSD is proactively developing a comprehensive plan to sample and protect against PFC’s and other Emerging Unregulated Contaminants that might pose a health threat to the community. This plan will allow for near and long term treatment options to provide safe, reliable, and sustainable solutions.

RWSD will continue to provide updates regarding drinking water quality standards and RWSD efforts to ensure Rome/Floyd drinking water is safe for all. For more information regarding the EPA Health Advisory - please visit this site document **“EPA Update – Drinking Water Advisory (PFOS/PFOA)”**.