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#### **FOR RELEASE DATE**

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### **BATAVIA CHECKS WATER IN ADVANCE OF EXPECTED NEW EPA STANDARDS**

**BATAVIA, Illinois (March 15, 2023):** The EPA has announced a new proposal to establish national standards for PFAS in drinking water. If finalized, the EPA's proposal would regulate six different Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS. In anticipation of the EPA's announcement, the City of Batavia conducted water testing for 29 different PFAS substances.

Batavia's test results showed non-detect levels for PFOA and PFOS, which are both proposed to be regulated as individual contaminants. A level of 983 parts per trillion was detected for PFBS. In June 2022 the EPA issued a health advisory for PFBS at 2,000 parts per trillion. Batavia's test result was less than half of the health advisory level.

If finalized, the EPA's proposal would regulate PFBS, along with three other PFAS substances, as a combined mixture. Batavia's test results for the three other PFAS substances were shown as non-detect.

PFAS are man-made chemical compounds that make products resistant to high temperatures, water, and stains. They are often referred to as forever chemicals because they break down very slowly over time. According to EPA.gov, current scientific research suggests that exposure to high levels of certain PFAS may lead to adverse health outcomes. However, research is still ongoing to determine how different levels of exposure to different PFAS can lead to a variety of health effects.

"While Batavia's early test results are extremely encouraging and show we don't have any immediate issues to address, we will continue our work to protect public health by staying on top of the subject and partnering with our state and federal regulatory agencies," said Batavia Public Works Director Gary Holm.

For more information about PFAs and Batavia's water, visit [cityofbatavia.net/pfas](http://cityofbatavia.net/pfas).

*Batavia is located 35 miles west of Chicago along the banks of the Fox River. Settled in the 1830s, Batavia earned the nickname 'The Windmill City' when it was the windmill manufacturing capital of the world at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Batavia is home to more than 1,200 businesses, including Fermilab National Accelerator Laboratory, the U.S. Headquarters of Aldi Inc, and Suncast Corporation. Batavia's historic charm, excellent school system, and unparalleled recreational and shopping amenities make it a great place to live, work and play for its over 26,000 residents.*