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## 2022 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

It all starts with clean water and that is what we do best. The Bedford Regional Water Authority (BRWA) provides essential water and wastewater services that our customers rely on. Providing quality service to everyone while supplying reliable, safe, and clean water is our top priority. This is why we provide all of our customers with information concerning the quality of their water.

Each year the BRWA publishes a water quality report, also known as the consumer confidence report (CCR), to serve as an aid in educating our customers about what is in their water. We also view this as a great opportunity to provide additional information about what we do, how we do it and the impact that this has on public health, the environment, and the community.

Information in the report includes:

- Contact information
- How standards are set
- Information about specific water tests
- Source water evaluation
- Outreach opportunities
- And much more!

Please visit <https://bit.ly/3WIVGf6> to view the BRWA's 2022 Annual Water Quality Report.

If a paper copy of this report is requested, or there is difficulty accessing this report electronically, please call Cody Lawhorn at 540-586-7679 extension 142. Requests can also be emailed to [communications@brwa.com](mailto:communications@brwa.com).

The BRWA's accomplishments are only possible because of our dedicated staff, the support of our Board of Directors, and the relationships we have with our partners; this includes our 15,000+ customers, school districts, homeowner's associations, local government, state and federal agencies, community organizations, businesses, and professional associations.

Thank you for allowing the BRWA to serve you.

Sincerely,

Brian M. Key, PE  
Executive Director

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## **WATER QUALITY: UNDERSTANDING PFAS**

The Bedford Regional Water Authority (BRWA), in partnership with the Western Virginia Water Authority (WVWA), provides treated drinking water from the Smith Mountain Lake (SML) Water Treatment Facility to our customers. This is the primary source of drinking water for customers located at SML, while customers in the Town of Bedford and Forest may receive some water from SML that is blended with water from other sources. This drinking water is filtered and disinfected prior to going to our customers, and the water system is in full compliance with all drinking water standards.

As part of a large study by the Virginia Department of Health's emerging contaminants monitoring program, the treated drinking water from the SML Water Treatment Facility was tested for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) compounds. One compound, GenX (chemical name: hexafluoropropylene oxide-dimer acid which is frequently abbreviated HFPO-DA) was detected in the amount of 5 parts per trillion (ppt). Untreated water from SML at the point of intake to the treatment facility also recently tested at 5 parts per trillion (ppt).

In June of 2022, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed Lifetime Drinking Water Health Advisories for four substances in the PFAS chemical family including GenX. The lifetime health advisory for GenX was established at 10 parts per trillion. The EPA explains "that their lifetime health advisories identify levels to protect all people, including sensitive populations and life stages, from adverse health effects resulting from a lifetime of exposure to these PFAS in drinking water. EPA's lifetime health advisories also take into account other potential sources of exposure to these PFAS beyond drinking water (for example, food, air, consumer products, etc.), which provides an additional layer of protection."

In March 2023, the U.S. EPA published a proposed national drinking water standard to limit six different PFAS in drinking water which again included GenX. Based upon the review of the proposed rule, it is believed that 10 parts per trillion would effectively become the maximum contaminant level for GenX at the SML Water Treatment Facility. Although the 5 parts per trillion sample result is below the 10 parts per trillion Lifetime Drinking Water Health Advisory, the BRWA and WVWA want to make you aware of this test data. As part of the water treatment process, the SML Water Treatment Facility uses granular activated carbon (GAC) to remove organics; granular activated carbon is also considered the best available treatment option to reduce or remove GenX.

The WVWA and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have identified the source of the GenX compound as resulting from the activities of ProChem, Inc, a business in Elliston, Virginia. ProChem, Inc. agreed to stop treating the equipment that contained the GenX compound.

The BRWA and WVWA are committed to testing and treatment that will allow the SML Water Treatment Facility to continue to meet all the drinking water standards established by the EPA and deliver a quality product to all customers. If you have any questions, please call 540-586-7679 extension 121 or see the online data at <https://bit.ly/3MuWdrP>.