

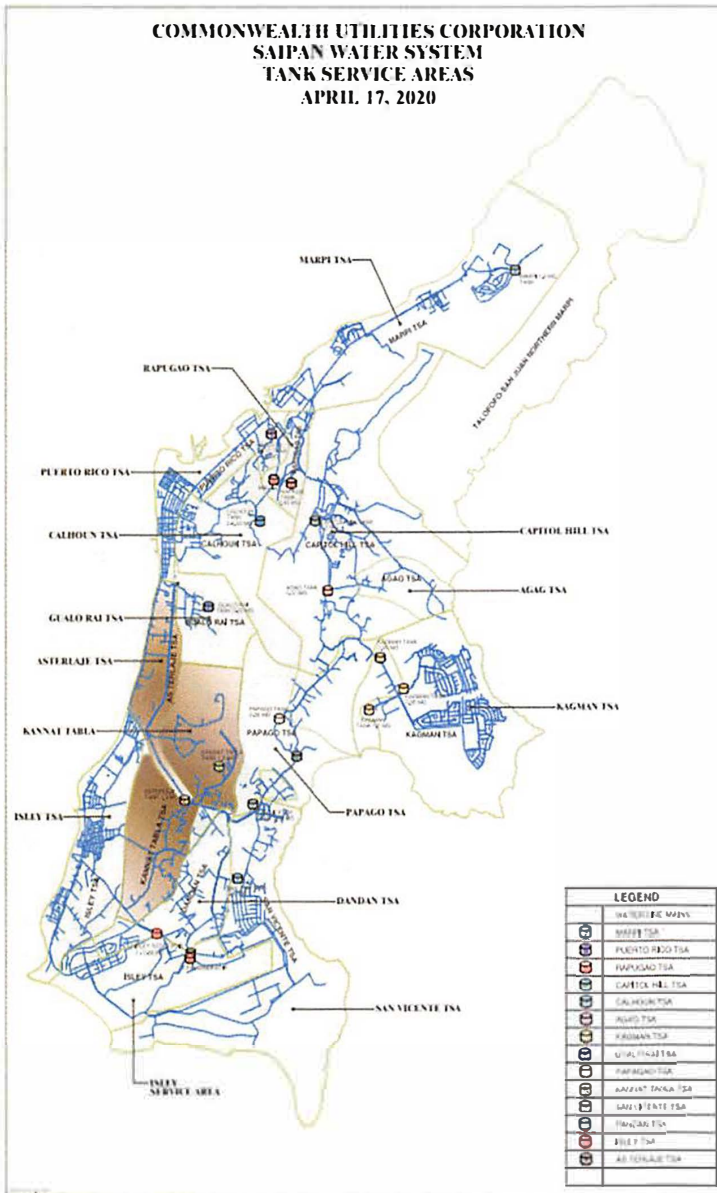


Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Health Advisory

Since 2016, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) has regularly detected levels of perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) that exceed the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) lifetime Health Advisory level of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) in a limited area of its drinking water system. CUC has advised customers in the following villages to avoid drinking or cooking with the water: **Chalan Laulau, I Liyang, Chalan Kiya, As Terlaje, Kannat Tabla, Fina Sisu, San Jose (Oleai) and parts of southern Garapan, Gualo Rai, Susupe, As Lito, and As Perdido.**



The EPA lifetime health advisory level is the amount below which no harm is expected from PFOS and PFOA based on a daily consumption of water over a lifetime. A proven way to remove PFOS and PFOA is to filter the contaminated water through a granulated activated carbon (GAC) system. CUC has identified funding for the purchase of GAC units which will be installed sometime beginning this fall and next year.

Until CUC has GAC systems, we have tried to reduce the amount of PFOS and PFOA in the water by removing a total of 10 wells that contain high levels of PFOS and PFOA. The last two wells were turned off on January 30, 2020 and a sample was collected on February 4, 2020 from the As Terlaje Tank that serves the affected areas. The sample contained 25 parts per trillion (ppt) PFOS and this is below the EPA health advisory level. A sample collected on March 23, 2020 contained 31 ppt PFOS and the most recent sample collected on June 11, 2020 contained 29 ppt PFOS. We expect the amount of PFOS and PFOA to vary over time because these contaminants move throughout the underground water field.

Although the February, March, and June samples were below the EPA health advisory level, CUC continues to advise consumers in the affected areas to avoid ingesting the water until CUC has installed the GAC filtration systems that will reliably reduce the amounts of PFOS and PFOA below the EPA health advisory level. **Consumers within the affected areas (shaded in dark tan/gray) should not drink tap water, cook with tap water, or make ice for consumption with tap water.** CUC water can be used for bathing or washing dishes or clothes as PFOS and PFOA do not move easily through the skin. CUC is making this advisory action to help the affected population limit their lifetime exposure to these chemicals.

Please call our 24-hour Call Center at (670) 664-4282 if you have questions about PFOS and PFOA in CUC's water in your area.

For more information about PFOS and PFOA, visit EPA's webpage at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos> or BECQ Safe Drinking Water Program at (670) 664-8500.

PWSID: MP0000001

Dated: August 11, 2020

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131

CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.