

## INTRODUCTION TO 2019 DRINKING WATER

### SPECIAL ANALYSIS REPORTS

In the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's final report (HHE 2016-01582), they recommended expanding water testing in all buildings to look for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and semi-volatile organic compounds, specifically polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). These are contaminants known to be present in the soil and maybe in the soil surrounding the water lines. The only way for these contaminants to enter the water line is through a ruptured pipe or by back-siphoning, where negative pressure in the system draws contaminated water into the potable water supply.

The following reports are from a sampling event conducted July to October 2019 where samples of drinking water were collected at representative fixtures throughout the Goodfellow Federal Center. A total of 146 samples were collected from within 15 buildings. Each sample was analyzed for 7 congeners of PCBs and 20 PAHs.

All of the 146 samples resulted in contaminant levels less than the minimum reporting limits (MRL) for each PCB congener and PAH. These data show there is no indication of leakage or back siphoning of any PCB or PAH contamination into the drinking water. However, the results for anthracene (1 of the 20 PAHs) in samples from Buildings 103, 110, and 105 were invalid due to quality control and calibration variance issues at the laboratory. This accounts for 63 analyses out of 2,920 analyses, which is less than 2 percent.

GSA will continue to test drinking water for lead and copper, as per the EPA Lead and Copper Rule. This testing is part of GSA's continual check for drinking water quality, which occurs at least twice a year.

If you have any questions concerning these data, email [r6environmental@gsa.gov](mailto:r6environmental@gsa.gov) and GSA will provide responses from the appropriate experts.