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Birmingham Water Works Committed to Meeting New EPA PFAS Regulations and Ensuring Safe Drinking Water for Customers

Birmingham, AL — (April 10, 2024) — Birmingham Water Works (BWW) reaffirms its commitment to adhering to the latest standards set forth by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water. The EPA recently finalized a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) establishing legally enforceable levels, known as Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), for six PFAS compounds, including PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, and HFPO-DA, as well as PFAS mixtures containing specific combinations of these compounds.

Under the new regulation, public water systems like BWW are required to monitor PFAS compounds and have three years to complete initial monitoring by 2027, followed by ongoing compliance monitoring. Additionally, water systems must provide the public with information on the levels of these PFAS in their drinking water beginning in 2027 and implement solutions by 2029 if levels exceed the established MCLs.

Taking a proactive approach, BWW began monitoring in 2023 and conducts monthly PFAS sampling on both raw water sources and drinking water. In total, BWW performs over 399,200 tests on over 300 different chemicals or contaminants each year and was prepared to follow EPA PFAS regulations a year ago. BWW is dedicated to ensuring that drinking water remains safe and free from PFAS contamination. The testing performed to date on these chemicals have resulted in levels below the EPA or AL Dept of Environmental Management (ADEM) regulatory limits in the various sources of water supply and BWW's treatment plants' finished water.

"We take concerns about chemicals in our water supply very seriously," said Michael Johnson, General Manager of Birmingham Water Works. "The health and safety of our customers are our top priorities, and we believe in making decisions that are in their best interests. We are committed to complying with the new EPA regulations and will work diligently to ensure that our water is clean, safe, and meets all applicable standards."

BWW will continue to monitor EPA's evolving guidance on PFAS chemicals and all other contaminants of concern and are prepared to take necessary steps to continue to remain in full compliance with all ADEM and EPA standards.

For more information about Birmingham Water Works and its commitment to water quality and safety, please visit bwwb.org.

About Birmingham Water Works:

Founded in 1951, Birmingham Water Works (BWW) serves nearly 770,000 people in Jefferson, Shelby, Blount, St. Clair, and Walker counties. The BWWB operates four filtration plants, a certified testing laboratory, and has more than 4,000 miles of pipe in its distribution network.