ALBERTSON WATER DISTRICT NEWS

Volume 16, Number 1 • Spring 2025

Commissioners Brian Hassan, Janell Giordano, and Emmanoyil Vlepakis Report PFOAs, PFOS, and 1,4-Dioxane

COMMISSIONER Brian Hassan

COMMISSIONER Janell Giordano

COMMISSIONER Emmanoyil Vlepakis

Regularly, the commissioners are asked about the emerging contaminants that the District has been treating in its water. All water pumped through Albertson Water District meets or exceeds local, state, and federal guidelines. In addition, the District currently treats for emerging concerns, such as 'forever chemicals,' and plans to expand its treatment scope beyond the current standard regulations.

What is PFOA and PFOS?

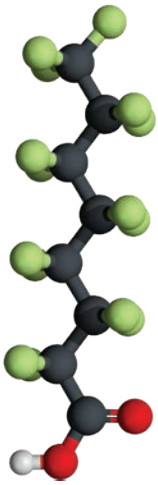
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) are part of a large group of lab-made chemicals known as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). These synthetic chemicals have been in products since the 1940s. There is growing concern that these chemicals can enter water supplies through industrial runoff, disposal of products containing these chemicals, and other sources. A key concern with PFAS, including PFOA and PFOS, is their persistence in the environment and tendency to accumulate in people, animals, and the ecosystem over time.

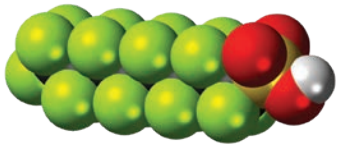
What is 1,4-Dioxane?

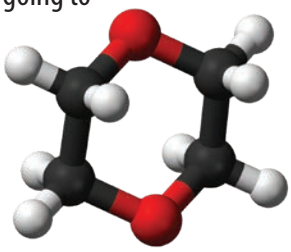
1,4-Dioxane is a colorless liquid with a faint, sweet odor, similar to that of diethyl ether. It is primarily used as a solvent in chemical manufacturing and as a laboratory reagent. 1,4-Dioxane is also a trace contaminant of some chemicals used in cosmetics, cleaning products, and shampoos. Similar to PFAS, it can enter groundwater through runoff, disposal of products containing these chemicals, and other sources.

How does Albertson Water District address the concerns of infiltration to the groundwater?

Albertson Water District takes a proactive approach, and has been utilizing AOPs (Advanced Oxidation Processes) to remain at or below any mandated limits. This process, which involves ultraviolet (UV) light and a potent oxidizing agent, such as hydrogen peroxide, has proven successful over the years. In turn, this is followed by the application of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) to remove 1,4-dioxane to acceptable levels. Please see page 3 where we explain some of the capital projects the District is undergoing to continue to address these concerns.







FOND FAREWELL & WARM WELCOME

We wish the very best to Water Plant Operator Ken in his retirement, and welcome Ray to take over the position.

Ken started his career at the Albertson Water District more than 37 years ago, right out of high school. Throughout his time with the District, he completed many trainings and became a NYS Grade 1 water plant operator. Ken is also a certified NYS backflow tester, and has been a true asset to the District. His official retirement was on February 26, 2025.

Ray is currently completing his on-the-job training sessions, and is thoroughly prepared for this new role. As an integral part of the team, Ray's exceptional leadership and work ethic are greatly appreciated, as he helps the District to run efficiently.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

The District has recently completed two water transmission main projects.

Originally, the District had planned to install a transmission main from Albertson Avenue, down IU Willets Road, to Willis Avenue. After performing a hydraulic study, it was determined that connecting to the existing main on Coventry Avenue would have nearly the same result as installing a transmission main on IU Willets Road. This prudent decision provided a big cost savings to our taxpayers.

These additional water mains are required as a result of our Hollow Court Booster Station being removed from service in order to install Granulated Activated Carbon (GAC) filters for the treatment of PFAS, PFOS, as well as UV Treatment for the removal of 1,4-Dioxane. This project is expected to take upwards of two years.

Currently, the District has bid a project for the placement of GAC filters at Well No. 1. Since a new building will be built to house the GAC filters, it is expected that Well No. 1 will remain in service while the new building is constructed. Benefiting from proper planning, this well will be out of service for only one week while the redirection of water to the GAC filters is made. In order to meet the daily water supply demand, Well No. 2 and Well No. 5 will also need GAC treatment.

While the wells have not met or exceeded the current threshold limit for PFOAs and PFOS, plans to treat the water are being made in anticipation of lowered federal guidelines and increased levels of PFOA and PFOS when the well is tested. The current plan is to work on Well No. 5 and then Well No. 2, respectively.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION & COMPLIANCE

Backflow is the opposite of normal water flow, occurring when non-potable water or liquids flow back into the public water supply or into the drinking water system of your home or business. Backflow prevention devices are designed to protect the public water supply against such contamination.

The Albertson Water District is responsible for enforcing the use of protective backflow devices by its consumers. This includes enforcement of the following requirements:

1. Installation (or modification) of an underground irrigation system requires a permit.
2. Installations must include a backflow prevention device.
3. Inspection of completed systems prior to the issuance of a permit is mandatory.
4. Annual testing by a NYS-certified backflow tester is mandatory.
5. As of 2024, all backflow test results must be submitted on TrackMyBackflow.com.

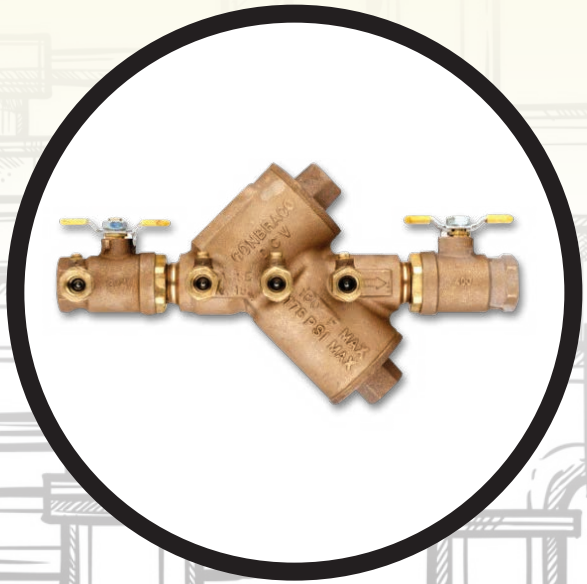
Results Must be Submitted via TrackMyBackflow.com

The Albertson Water District has partnered with Aqua Backflow to assist with its backflow program operations. The District will be utilizing the TrackMyBackflow.com tracking website, which will alert customers when backflow testing is due, as well as how to submit the proper paperwork to the District.

- The District will no longer be accepting backflow test results directly.
- All backflow test results must be submitted to TrackMyBackflow.com.
- The District is incurring any costs to submit tests to the Aqua Backflow program.

All local certified backflow inspectors have been notified of this change. When hiring a backflow tester, be sure to verify they are connected to us through Aqua Backflow and will submit your test results to the District through **TrackMyBackflow.com**

For a link to the form and more information on compliance, or for a list of certified testers, visit: **albertsonwater.org/backflow**.



ALBERTSON
WATER DISTRICT

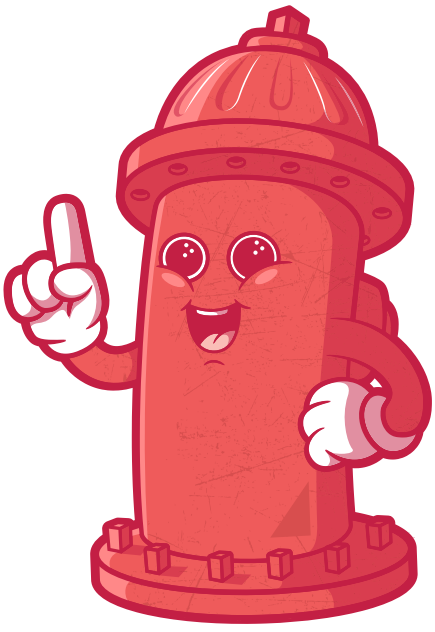
Presorted
First Class Mail
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 102
Albertson, NY 11507

P.O. Box 335
Albertson, NY 11507 USA

Telephone: (516) 621-3610
Fax: (516) 626-8042
Business Hours: Monday through Friday: 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
and 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
www.albertsonwater.org

Proudly designed and produced by
PMG Strategic, Inc.
www.pmgstrategic.com

Hydrant Flushing to Begin in June



The District plans on flushing hydrants beginning in June. All consumers will receive notice of a start date.

It's not uncommon to experience discolored water after a water main repair, hydrant flushing, large fire, or the illegal opening of a fire hydrant. While it may be alarming, try these steps before contacting the District for a potential concern.

- **The District recommends that you flush your home's plumbing by first running the cold water tap in the kitchen sink or a slop sink.**
- **Once that clears, move on to bathrooms, performing the same task. Flush the toilets, run the sink and shower until this clearing of the cold water is complete.**
- **If necessary, move on to the hot water. In most cases, if this procedure is followed, the water will become clear.**

If the problem continues, wait one hour and repeat.