



For Immediate Release | February 26, 2025

Town of Ridgway Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Filter Operational, GAC-Treated Water Now Entering Distribution System

Ridgway, CO – The Town of Ridgway is excited to announce that the Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filter has officially been brought online at the Town’s Water Treatment Plant. Starting at 2:30 p.m. today, any new water entering the distribution system will have been processed through the GAC filter.

The Town of Ridgway’s Water Treatment Plant currently utilizes membrane filtration and, for many years, had been applying chlorine dioxide for taste and odor benefits. The chlorine dioxide machine has been replaced with the GAC filter. A filter with GAC can remove certain chemicals and many organic contaminants from water, some of which produce odors or tastes to water. Granular activated carbon notably assists with the removal of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which have become an increasing contaminant of concern for regulators. A GAC filtration system removes contaminants from the water supply by flowing water through the GAC material, which pulls the contaminants like PFAS out of the water and forces them to stick to the filtration media.



This project has been in progress for several years, received grant funding from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs’ *Energy & Mineral Impact Assistance Program*, and is an essential first step in addressing the Town’s issues with emerging contaminants and unregulated chemicals in our drinking water. The Town is pleased to have taken the initiative to install this type of system.

For more detailed information on PFAS substances, please visit the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) PFAS webpage at <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>. For more information about the Town’s water treatment system, please contact Preston Neill, Town Manager, at 970-626-5308, ext. 212 or pneill@town.ridgway.co.us.

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