December 29, 2021

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Borough of Waldwick Water System Has Levels of Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) Above the Drinking Water Standards

As our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation. Our water system violated recent New Jersey drinking water standards for PFOA and PFOS.

We routinely monitor for the presence of federal and state regulated drinking water contaminants. New Jersey adopted a standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for PFOA and PFOS in 2020 and monitoring began in 2021.

The MCL for PFOA is 0.014 micrograms per liter (µg/L) and is based on a running annual average (RAA), in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged**. On November 3, 2021, we received notice that the sample(s) collected on October 19, 2021 showed that our system exceeds the PFOA MCL. The RAA for PFOA based on samples collected over the last year is 0.01583 µg/L for TP005011 (Well 3), 0.0217 µg/L for TP006013 (Well 4), and 0.01575 µg/L for TP009019 (Well 7).**

The New Jersey standard for PFOS is 0.013 micrograms per liter (µg/L) and is based on a RAA. On February 9, 2021, we received a notice that a water sample collected on January 18, 2021, caused the RAA for PFOS at TP008017 (Well 6) to exceed the MCL regardless of the next three quarters of results. **The RAA for PFOS at TP008017 (Well 6) is 0.084 µg/L.** Well 6 was returned to service on August 26th with temporary treatment. Once an MCL violation is exceeded, we must take corrective action and comply with the MCL within one year of the violation.

Our water system continues to be in violation with a New Jersey drinking water standard for PFOA at TP006013, and PFOS at TP008017. In accordance with Public Notification Rule, we are required to repeat the notification to the public every three months as long as the violation or situation persists. The applicable information from the original public notices distributed March 1, 2021 and September 7, 2021, are included with an update of the water quality and steps we are taking.

What is PFOA?

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) is a member of the group of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), used as a processing aid in the manufacture of fluoropolymers used in non-stick cookware and other products, as well as other commercial and industrial uses, based on its resistance to harsh chemicals and high temperatures. PFOA has also been used in aqueous film-forming foams for firefighting and training, and it is found in consumer products such as stain-resistant coatings for upholstery and carpets, water-resistant outdoor clothing, and greaseproof food packaging. Major sources of PFOA in drinking water include discharge from industrial facilities where it was made or used and the release of aqueous film-forming foam. Although the use of PFOA has decreased substantially, contamination is expected to continue indefinitely because it is extremely persistent in the environment and is soluble and mobile in water.

What is PFOS?

Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) is a member of the group of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), that are man-made and used in industrial and commercial applications. PFOS is used in metal plating and finishing as well as in various commercial products. PFOS has also been used in aqueous film-forming foams for firefighting and training, and it is found

in consumer products such as stain-resistant coatings for upholstery and carpets, water-resistant outdoor clothing, and greaseproof food packaging. Major sources of PFOS in drinking water include discharge from industrial facilities where it was made or used, and the release of aqueous film-forming foam. Although the use of PFOS has decreased substantially, contamination is expected to continue indefinitely because it is extremely persistent in the environment and is soluble and mobile in water.

What does this mean?

**People who drink water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over time could experience problems with their blood serum cholesterol levels, liver, kidney, immune system, or, in males, the reproductive system. Drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over time may also increase the risk of testicular and kidney cancer. For females, drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over time may cause developmental delays in a fetus and/or an infant. Some of these developmental effects may persist through childhood.*

**People who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over time could experience problems with their immune system, kidney, liver, or endocrine system. For females, drinking water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over time may cause developmental effects and problems with the immune system, liver, or endocrine system in a fetus and/or an infant. Some of these developmental effects may persist through childhood.*

** For specific health information see*
https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_drinking%20water.pdf.

What should I do?

- If you have specific health concerns, a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at higher risk than other individuals and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.
- The New Jersey Department of Health advises that infant formula and other beverages for infants, such as juice, should be prepared with bottled water when PFOA and/or PFOS is elevated in drinking water.
- Pregnant, nursing, and women considering having children may choose to use bottled water for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOA and/or PFOS.
- Other people may also choose to use bottled water for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOA and/or PFOS or a home water filter that is certified to reduce levels of PFOA and/or PFOS. Home water treatment devices are available that can reduce levels of PFOA and/or PFOS. For more specific information regarding the effectiveness of home water filters for reducing PFOA and/or PFOS, visit the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) International website, http://www.nsf.org/.
- Boiling your water will not remove PFOA and/or PFOS.

For more information, see https://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/pfas/

What is being done?

The Borough of Waldwick Water System relies on six water supply wells to provide water to our system. These supply wells are located in the Borough and are operated and maintained by the Borough of Waldwick. The water supply well (Well 6) which had the high concentration in January 2021 was removed from operation as soon as we were notified of the test results. *Temporary treatment for PFAS was installed at Well 6, and the well was returned to service on August 26th.* Wells 3, 4, 5, and 7 will remain in service. In 2019, prior to the proposal and adoption of MCL's for Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and PFOS, the Borough also removed from operation one water supply well (Well 2) after a water sample result from the well would have caused a RAA for PFOS to exceed a MCL recommendation by the New Jersey Drinking Water Quality Institute regardless of the next three quarters results. Well 2 is expected to remain off until a treatment solution is in place.

Due to potential health effects of PFOA and PFOS, we began voluntarily monitoring for these compounds beginning in 2019. These results have been provided to you in our 2021 Consumer Confidence Report containing 2020 data, which can be found on the webpage https://www.waldwicknj.org/waterdepartment. These analyses were an important part of preparing for the possibility that treatment might be needed to comply with future regulations.

We are in the engineering stages of permanent treatment for our system, awaiting for NJDEP review and approval of the submitted design, and anticipate having water treatment facilities installed at each well facility in 2022. You will likely receive additional PFOS and PFOA notification letters until the water treatment facilities are online and our system's RAAs are in compliance with the PFOS and PFOA MCLs.

Additional information regarding PFOA and PFOS is available on the Borough Water Department Webpage: www.waldwicknj.org/waterdepartment

For more information, please contact the Borough of Waldwick Water Department at 201-652-5300 x 240 or at 63 Franklin Turnpike, Waldwick, NJ 07463.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the Borough of Waldwick Water System.

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