March 9, 2023 Repeat Notice

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

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

The Borough of Waldwick Water System Failed to Take Permanent Action to Bring Our Water into Compliance with the Perfluorononanoic acid (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) Within One Year

As reported to you in 2021, our water system violated New Jersey drinking water standards for PFOA and PFOS, and as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation. We are required to update and repeat this notification every quarter until permanent treatment is operational, and the water system returns to compliance. The most recent public notice and update regarding this matter are available at www.waldwicknj.org/waterdepartment.

We routinely monitor for the presence of federal and state regulated drinking water contaminants. New Jersey adopted a standard, or MCL, for PFOA and PFOS in 2020 and monitoring began in 2021. During the 1st quarter 2021 we initially exceeded the MCL for PFOS at one Treatment Plan (TP008017), and during the 3rd quarter 2021 we initially exceeded the MCL for PFOA at one Treatment Plant (TP006013), and during the 4th quarter 2021 we initially exceeded the MCL for PFOA at two Treatment Plants (TP005011 and TP009019) and during the 1st quarter of 2022 we initially exceeded the MCL for PFOA at one Treatment Plant (TP007015). Per the New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Act, our water system is required to take any action necessary to bring the water into compliance with the applicable MCL within one-year from the initial violation. Our water system failed to remediate the PFOA and PFOS MCL violations by the one-year deadlines of February 2, 2022, September 3, 2022, November 29, 2022, and will miss the upcoming deadline of March 17, 2023.

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. The RAA for PFOA based on samples collected over the last four quarters is 0.017 µg/L for TP005011 (Well 3), 0.020 µg/L for TP006013 (Well 4), 0.017 µg/L for TP007015 (Well 5), and 0.019 µg/L for TP009019 (Well 7).

The New Jersey standard for PFOS is 0.013 µg/L and is based on a RAA. The RAA for PFOS at TP008017 (Well 6) is 0.0138 µg/L based on samples collected over the last quarters when the well was in operation. Well 6 was returned to service on August 26, 2021, with temporary treatment that has reduced single quarter testing results to below 0.013 µg/L.

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?

We received NJDEP approval of the permanent treatment design for our system. We are currently finalizing the steps for funding. We will then request contactor bids to complete the work, and then will proceed with construction of the permanent treatment plants. We expect to award a contract in 2023 to construct the water treatment facilities, with the facilities coming online in 2023 to early 2024. We will keep you updated with each notice.

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, info@waldwicknj.org, or 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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