



BOROUGH OF ESSEX FELLS
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August 21, 2025

Dear Residents and Water Customers,

I am pleased to report that in July 2025, the Essex Fells Water System completed and activated another state-of-the art water filtration system to protect our water supply from the presence of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and similar per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the environment. This latest facility completely removes PFOA and other PFAS from two groundwater wells that have been offline since 2021. As a result, those two wells are now back in service, materially increasing the Water System's overall capacity while keeping PFAS levels at zero in the water being delivered to you.

As you know from previous updates over the last several years:

- In the third quarter of 2021, PFOA levels in our water system exceeded New Jersey's newly-enacted, stringent maximum contaminant level (MCL).
- From the fourth quarter of 2021 through the second quarter of 2024, PFOA in the water being delivered was reduced to a level within the New Jersey MCL, through a combination of operational changes, taking wells offline, and constructing a temporary water treatment facility.
- In July 2024, we completed and activated a permanent water treatment facility that completely removes PFOA and other PFAS from 13 of our 16 groundwater wells. This had the effect of improving the quality of the water being delivered from "within all applicable drinking water standards" to industry-leading, especially when it comes to PFAS.

As a result of the foregoing, including the startup of our latest facility, we now have permanent PFAS treatment facilities in operation for 15 of our 16 wells. The 16th well remains offline. It will be returned to service once construction of our final PFAS treatment facility is completed, which is expected to occur in Spring 2026.

We appreciate your patience and support as we complete our capital investment program. We have made great strides, and these investments enable us to meet the highest standards for drinking water and ensure the ongoing safety and reliability of our water supply.

Where You Can Find More Information

For more information, please see the latest regulatory notice issued by our Water Department on August 21, 2025, posted on the Borough's website. We will continue to post quarterly updates until we complete our final PFOA treatment facility. We will also mail an update annually, in November.

Copies of prior Water Department updates and information on PFOA from the New Jersey Department of Health and the United States Environmental Protection Agency are available on the Borough's website (<https://www.essexfellsboro.com/pages/pfoa>).

Sincerely,

Edward A. Davis
Mayor
Borough of Essex Fells