

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**  
**ESSEX FELLS WATER SYSTEM**

**Update Regarding the Essex Fells Water System's Violation of the New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Act; Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) continues to be Non-Detectable in the Water Being Supplied**

**February 21, 2026**

As you know, in the third quarter of 2021 our water system violated the New Jersey maximum contaminant level (MCL) for Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) at three of our treatment plants TP001001, TP002015, and TP003020. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we have already done and are doing to correct this situation.

On July 15, 2024, the Essex Fells Water System commenced operation of a new permanent treatment facility at TP001001 that removes PFOA and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) from 13 of our 16 wells. On July 25, 2025, we commenced operation of a new permanent treatment facility at TP002015 that removes PFOA and other PFAS from an additional 2 wells. TP001001 and TP002015 are the only water treatment plants currently delivering water to the public. As a result, PFOA is non-detectable in the water being supplied by the Essex Fells Water System.

Treatment plant TP003020, which is associated with our remaining well, was shut down in September 2021 and remains offline, not delivering water to the public. Because this treatment plant remains offline and, thus, no current PFOA results are available, the 2021 PFOA MCL violation for a PFOA level of 0.022 µg/l (which is above the New Jersey PFOA MCL of 0.014 µg/l) will remain open until we complete our planned installation of a PFAS treatment system at this location. We expect that work to be completed in 2026. See "What is being done?" below for more information.

You were previously notified of the PFOA MCL violations in public notices distributed every three months beginning September 16, 2021, with the most recent update issued on November 21, 2025. The quarterly public notices through November 21, 2024 were sent by mail and published on the Borough's website. Thereafter, with the approval of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the frequency of public notice mailings has been reduced from every three months to every 12 months and we will continue to post quarterly updates on our website at <https://www.essexfellsboro.com/pages/PFOA>. The public notice will be posted continuously and will be updated every three months with information on PFOA levels and the status of the new treatment facilities being installed at TP003020. The next printed version of the public notice will be mailed to you in November 2026. Please contact the Essex Fells Water Department by mail at 318 Runnymede Road, Essex Fells, NJ 07021, or call 973-226-3400 if you wish to receive direct delivery of this three-month update notice.

**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 grease proof 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 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.*

*\* For specific health information, see [https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas\\_drinking%20water.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_drinking%20water.pdf) .*

**What should I do?**

TP003020 is not currently in use, and the water being provided to consumers by TP001001 and TP002015 has non-detectable levels of PFOA. We will directly notify customers in writing via mail prior to any planned use of TP003020 or will directly notify consumers within 24 hours of any emergency use of TP003020 through the water system's website, social media, and other methods. Anyone concerned about their health should consult with their personal healthcare provider.

For more information on the New Jersey state standards, see <https://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/pdf/pfoa-pfos-faq.pdf> or <https://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/pfas/>.

For additional information regarding PFOA from the federal government, including fact sheets and answers to frequently asked questions, please refer to the following resources from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>.

**What is being done?**

As indicated above, Essex Fells has constructed and is operating permanent PFOA treatment facilities at TP001001 and TP002015 that remove PFOA on a permanent basis from the water drawn from 15 or our 16 wells. The remaining treatment plant, TP003020, which ordinarily handles a single well, is offline and not delivering water to the system.

Construction of a PFOA treatment system that will remove PFOA on a permanent basis from our 16<sup>th</sup> well at TP003020 is presently underway. However, due to unforeseen conditions at the work site, construction of the new treatment facility is on hold. The delay is currently being addressed, and we expect construction to resume early this year with completion in Fall 2026.

To view all the drinking water quality data collected by Essex Fells Water Department visit [https://www9.state.nj.us/DEP\\_WaterWatch\\_public/index.jsp](https://www9.state.nj.us/DEP_WaterWatch_public/index.jsp) and enter NJ0706001 for the PWSID.

For more information, please contact William Ryden at 973-650-1029 or [wryden@anderson-denzler.com](mailto:wryden@anderson-denzler.com). You may also contact the Essex Fells Water Department by mail at 318 Runnymede Road, Essex Fells, NJ 07021.

*\*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 provided by the Essex Fells Water Department, Water System ID#: NJ0706001.

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