



BOROUGH OF ESSEX FELLS

255 ROSELAND AVENUE
ESSEX FELLS, NEW JERSEY 07021

January 18, 2024

Dear Residents and Water Customers,

Enclosed is a regulatory notice advising you of the results of 4th quarter 2023 water quality tests conducted on our water system. The test results confirm that the water we are supplying to you continues to meet New Jersey's drinking water standard for PFOA and satisfies all other state and federal water quality requirements. Please review the notice for details.

Update on Construction of Treatment Facilities

As you will recall from prior updates, since October 2021 our water utility has kept PFOA levels low – and within the NJ limit of 14 parts per trillion (ppt) -- by constructing an interim treatment facility, removing some wells from service, and adjusting operating protocols, including how we blend our water sources. These measures have been effective, but they are interim steps, designed to manage PFOA levels in the water being delivered until we can construct larger, permanent treatment facilities that will comprehensively remove PFOA from the water.

Our primary new PFOA treatment facility is under construction at our main water treatment plant in Essex Fells. This facility is scheduled to be completed and operational in mid-2024. Upon completion, it will remove PFOA contaminants from the water drawn from 13 of our 16 wells.

We have designed and are awaiting final NJ Department of Environmental Protection and NJ Infrastructure Bank approvals to construct permanent PFOA treatment facilities at 2 additional water treatment plants, both of which are currently offline, not providing water to the public. Upon completion, these additional facilities will remove PFOA from the remaining 3 of our 16 wells and allow us to bring those wells back into service. Subject to NJ approvals, public contract bidding procedures and the availability of key equipment, we hope to complete the second facility in late 2024 or early 2025 and the third and final facility later in 2025.

Upcoming EPA Regulation

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has proposed a new federal rule with respect to PFOA that it aims to finalize and adopt in the first quarter of 2024. The proposed rule would set the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for PFOA at 4 ppt – which is lower than the current NJ standard of 14 ppt. As drafted, the new federal requirement would become effective 3 years after the final rule is adopted.

Once our main PFOA treatment facility begins operating in 2024, PFOA levels in the water that we supply to you will be below 4 ppt. Thus, we do not need to alter the design or construction plans for our new PFOA facilities in anticipation of the new federal rule. If the

applicable MCL is lowered from 14 to 4 ppt, the main impact on our water system will be in the form of more frequent filter media changes at our new treatment facilities, which will increase our water system's operating costs.

Where You Can Find More Information

Our Water Department is required to send water customers quarterly regulatory notices until permanent PFOA treatment systems are operating at all three of our treatment plants, including those we are not currently using. These updates are meant to keep you informed about your drinking water and the capital improvements we are making in response to new regulations and the September 2021 PFOA exceedance previously reported to you.

For additional information, including copies of our prior notices and information on PFOA from the NJ Department of Health and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, please consult the Borough's website (<https://www.essexfellsboro.com/pages/pfoa>). We will continue to update that page from time to time as new information becomes available.

Sincerely,

Edward A. Davis
Mayor
Borough of Essex Fells