



**BOROUGH OF ESSEX FELLS**  
**255 ROSELAND AVENUE**  
**ESSEX FELLS, NJ 07021**  
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Dear Residents and Consumers,

You recently received a regulatory notice informing you that the Essex Fells Water Utility has detected levels of PFOA above the recently enacted New Jersey drinking water standard of 14 parts per trillion in three of the locations where water enters our system (i.e., before it is treated, not at the tap). As a regulated water utility, the Borough's water system was required to send the notice in the form in which it was delivered. I am writing now to offer some context regarding the information in the notice and to explain the steps we are taking to isolate, mitigate and reduce the level of PFOA in the affected locations to bring our drinking water into compliance with New Jersey's drinking water standard. This issue does not affect all of our wells, these circumstances exist in other water systems throughout the state and solutions are available.

First and foremost, the question at the top of everyone's minds is: can you continue to drink and use the water given the measured levels of PFOA? I can tell you unequivocally that I personally have no hesitation drinking or otherwise using the water, or allowing my family to do the same. The experts most familiar with our water system are of the same view. If we felt otherwise, you would know it. Similarly, if environmental regulators felt the level of PFOA or any other contaminant justified more drastic action, that notice would be conveyed to you in a much different fashion.

PFOA is prevalent throughout the environment and has been found in the blood serum of 98% of the U.S. population. While the precise human health effects from exposure to low levels of PFOA are unknown and will require additional study, the concern is generally with higher exposure levels and the potential effects of long-term or lifetime accumulations from multiple sources. That said, New Jersey has adopted a stringent new rule to begin reducing the amount of PFOA in the environment. As a result, we need to take steps to support that objective and we want you to be informed every step of the way. The current health advisories for PFOA in drinking water are focused on ingestion (drinking water or using it in food preparation), not skin contact or other exposures, such as washing dishes, doing laundry or watering your lawn.

Please note that the usual caveats regarding organic and inorganic substances in drinking water, of course, apply. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. In the case of PFOA specifically, if you are pregnant, nursing or providing an infant with formula that requires adding water, regulatory authorities recommend you seek advice regarding PFOA in drinking water from your health care providers.

I encourage you to carefully review the September 2021 regulatory notice and the fact sheets on PFOA published by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Copies of these materials are available at