IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Essex Fells water system has levels of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) above a drinking water standard.

Our water system violated a New Jersey drinking water standard, and 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.

We routinely monitor for the presence of federal and state regulated drinking water contaminants. New Jersey adopted a maximum contaminant level (MCL), for PFOA in 2020 and monitoring began in 2021. The MCL for PFOA is 0.014 micrograms per liter (μg/L) (or 14 parts per trillion) and is based on a running annual average (RAA), in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged.

Treatment plants (TPs) TP002015 and TP003020 remain above the standard but are offline, not delivering water to the public. TP001001 is the only treatment plant currently in use and the most recent results are currently below the drinking water standard.

Since the time of the prior quarterly notice to you dated March 15, 2022 regarding PFOA levels in our water system, we have installed and implemented a temporary treatment facility for two (2) of our wells at TP001001 beginning May 19, 2022. Also, as noted in the previous quarterly notice to you, in order to reduce the level of PFOA in the current water supply to below 14 parts per trillion, we have taken the other two (2) of our three (3) TPs (TP003020 and TP002015) offline.

On June 8, 2022, we received results for a sample collected on June 3, 2022, showing that the water leaving the treatment plant in use does not exceed the PFOA MCL, specifically 0.00955 μg/L (9.55 parts per trillion). The RAA for PFOA based on samples collected over the last year is now 0.013 μg/L (13 parts per trillion).

The second quarter 2022 PFOA value, the RAA based on samples collected during the past four quarters, and the current status of each treatment plant are summarized in the table below.

Treatment Plant (TP)	Most Recent Sample Collection Date	Second Quarter 2022 PFOA Value	Running Annual Average	Current Status of Treatment Plants
TP001001	6-03-2022	0.00955 μg/L	0.013 μg/L	Online and in service and undergoing treatment design. Temporary treatment in operation as of 5-19-22.
TP003020	7-21-2021	n/a	0.022 μg/L	Offline as of 9-24-2021 and undergoing treatment design.
TP002015	7-21-2021	n/a	0.016 μg/L	Offline as of 9-24-2021 and undergoing treatment design.

We are required to keep you informed of the status of any treatment plant with a PFOA MCL violation even if it has been shut off and is no longer delivering water, as the violation still persists. That is why TP003020 and TP002015 are listed in the above table, even though they are presently offline.

Pursuant to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, Public Notification Rule, we must re-issue a notice to you quarterly until we have taken permanent remedial action at all facilities and have complied with the MCL.

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.

For additional information regarding PFOA, including fact sheets and answers to frequently asked questions, please refer to the following resources from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and Essex Fells:

- https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/supporting-documents-drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos

- www.essexfellsboro.com/pages/pfoa

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 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.
- Other people may also choose to use bottled water for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOA or a home water filter that is certified to reduce levels of PFOA. Home water treatment devices are available that can reduce levels of PFOA. For more specific information regarding the effectiveness of home water filters for reducing PFOA, visit the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) International website, http://www.nsf.org/.
- Boiling your water will not remove PFOA.

For more information, see https://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/pdf/pfoa-pfos-faq.pdf or https://www.nj.gov/dep/pfas/drinking-water.html.

What is being done?
As indicated above, Essex Fells has implemented a temporary treatment facility for two (2) of our wells at TP001001 and has shut down the other two treatment plants (TP002015 and TP003020). We have also adjusted operational protocols, including the manner in which we blend our water sources that remain in service, in order to reduce the overall level of PFOA being delivered to our customers. As a result of these steps, Essex Fells is currently supplying water that is currently below the 0.014 μg/L MCL for PFOA and meets all other water quality standards. The Borough of Essex Fells has engaged the services of a professional engineering firm to design PFAS treatment facilities that will remove the PFOA contaminants in our water supply on a permanent basis. We are in the process of finalizing the project details, including the cost, with the engineers, contractors and other professionals. We anticipate these permanent treatment facilities for 13 of our 16 wells will be completed by April 2023.

To view all the drinking water quality data collected by the Essex Fells visit 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.

> **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 Essex Fells Water Depart., Water System ID#: NJ0706001.

Date distributed: June 15, 2022