



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Burlington Township Water Department Has Levels of Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) Above A Drinking Water Standard

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 greaseproof 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.

Our water system includes 3 groundwater treatment plants which service our customers with water from 8 wells in our system. Recently, our system's Beverly Road Water Treatment Plant (WTP) exceeded an established New Jersey drinking water standard.

The Beverly Road WTP services water from just 3 of our 8 wells. The other 5 wells produce water that remains in compliance with all regulations.

As our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of federal and state regulated drinking water contaminants. New Jersey adopted a standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for PFOA in 2020 and monitoring began in 2021.

The MCL for PFOA is 0.014 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) and is based on a **Running Annual Average (RAA)**, in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged.

On April 1, 2022, we received notice that the sample collected from our Beverly Road WTP on March 22, 2022 showed that our system exceeds the recently established MCL of 0.014 $\mu\text{g/L}$. Our RAA for PFOA based on samples collected from our Beverly Road WTP over the last year is 0.015 $\mu\text{g/L}$. 0.015 $\mu\text{g/L}$ is the equivalent of 0.015 parts per billion (ppb). It is also equal to 15 parts per trillion (ppt).

In summary, our RAA for the past twelve (12) months exceeded the NJDEP standard by 1 ppt. To better understand what a part per trillion (ppt) is in terms of proportion, 1 ppt would be represented by one (1) single drop of food coloring added to 18,000,000 (18 million) gallons of water.

Compared to the New Jersey DEP MCL for PFOA of 0.014 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (or 14 ppt), our RAA of 0.015 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (or 15 ppt) is 7% higher.

Compared to the Federal EPA Health Advisory (HA) of 0.070 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (or 70 ppt) for PFOA, our RAA of 0.015 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (or 15 ppt) is 79% lower.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING 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

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>

What is being done?

Prior to the April 1st notification of the exceedance, the Township had already begun implementing what is expected to be a multi-million dollar upgrade at our Beverly Road WTP to filter out PFOA. We anticipate that the upgrade required to resolve this issue will take approximately 12-18 months to complete. In the meantime, we are obtaining individual samples from each of the three (3) wells at our Beverly Road WTP. The results for PFOA at each individual well will be reviewed to establish if the presence of PFOA is limited to only one of the wells. We will provide updates on our website every three (3) months at <http://www.twp.burlington.nj.us>. We expect the next update to be posted on or about May 15, 2022.

For more information, please contact Scott Hatfield, Township Engineer at 609-239-5836 or shatfield@twp.burlington.nj.us

This notice is being sent to you by the Burlington Township Water Department.

State Water System ID#: NJ0306001

Date distributed: April 30, 2022