

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Burlington Township Water Department 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 did and are doing to correct this situation.

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.

What Happened?

Burlington Township Water Department routinely monitors for the presence of federal and state regulated drinking water contaminants. New Jersey adopted a standard, or MCL, for PFOA in 2020 and monitoring began in 2021. The MCL for PFOA is 0.014 parts per billion (ppb) and is based on a running annual average (RAA), in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged. On February 3, 2023, we received notice that the sample collected on January 19, 2023, showed that our system exceeds the PFOA MCL at TP002017 (Beverly Road). The RAA for PFOA based on samples collected over the last year is 0.015 ppb.

Our water system in 2022 exceeded a New Jersey Drinking water standard for PFOA. In accordance with regulations, the Burlington Township Water Department previously issued the April 30, 2022 public notice intitled "Important Information about your Drinking water." On February 3, 2023, we again received a Notice of Non-Compliance from the NJDEP advising that our RAA for PFOA at the Beverly Road Water Treatment Plant exceeded the MCL for the 1st quarter of 2023.

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?

- Anyone concerned about their health should consult with their personal healthcare provider.
- The New Jersey Department of Health advises that infant formula and other beverages for infants, such as plain water or 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 or a home filter designed to remove PFOA 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. If a water treatment device is used, it is important to follow the manufacturer's guidelines for maintenance and operation. 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/>. NSF does not certify reduction of PFOA to the NJ MCL for PFOA.
- Boiling your water will not remove PFOA.

For more information, see <https://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/pfas/>.

What is being done?

- The Township is undergoing a multi million-dollar upgrade at our Beverly Road WTP to filter out PFOA.
- In April 2022, the Township completed an Analysis of Technology Alternatives for the Beverly Road WTP.
- In July 2022, the Township passed a bond ordinance to provide funding to address PFAS at the Beverly Road WTP.
- In November 2022, the Township completed the site survey and geotechnical investigation for design of the proposed treatment equipment building.
- In February 2023, the township received bids for the selected treatment equipment and awarded a contract for the equipment.
- Currently, construction plans and specifications are being prepared based on a May 2023 anticipated date of advertisement for the general Construction/ Equipment Installation contract. The estimated date for the new treatment system start-up and initiation of operations is February 2024.
- The Township has also filed a civil complaint against seven (7) companies who have contributed to the introduction of PFAS into the environment.

Customers will continue to receive a public notice every three months until the situation is resolved. Additionally, we will continue to provide updates on our website every 3-months at:

www.twp.burlington.nj.us.

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

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 Burlington Township Water Department. State Water System ID#: NJ0306001.

Date distributed: March 5, 2023