

September 7, 2021

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

**The Borough of Waldwick Water System Has Levels of
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) Above the Drinking Water Standards**

and

**The Borough of Waldwick Water System Has Levels of
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) Above the Drinking Water Standards**

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

Our water system recently violated a recent New Jersey drinking water standard for PFOA.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. **On August 20, 2021, we received a notice that a water sample collected on July 20, 2021, showed that our system now exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for PFOA at one of our supply wells (Well 4).** The New Jersey standard for PFOA is 0.014 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$), and the PFOA at Well 4 was found at 0.020 $\mu\text{g/L}$. While compliance with the standard is based on a running annual average (RAA), the average of quarterly testing over the period of one year, the results from the first three quarters cause the RAA to exceed the MCL regardless of the next quarter result. The current RAA for PFOA at Well 4 is 0.0173 $\mu\text{g/L}$. Once an MCL violation is exceeded we must take corrective action and comply with the MCL within one year of the violation.

Our water system continues to be in violation with a New Jersey drinking water standard for PFOS. In accordance with Public Notification Rule, we are required to repeat the notification to the public every three months as long as the violation or situation persists. The applicable information from the original public notice from March 1, 2021, is included below with an update of the water quality and steps we are taking.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. **On February 9, 2021, we received a notice that a water sample collected on January 18, 2021, showed that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for PFOS at one of our supply wells (Well 6).** The New Jersey standard for PFOS is 0.013 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$), and PFOS at Well 6 was found at 0.084 $\mu\text{g/L}$. While compliance with the standard is based on a running annual average (RAA), the average of quarterly testing over the period of one year, this test result would cause the RAA to exceed the MCL regardless of the next three quarters of results. Well 6 was returned to service on August 26th with temporary treatment, and the resulting RAA calculated by the NJDEP is currently 0.0138 $\mu\text{g/L}$, which remains above the MCL. Once an MCL violation is exceeded we must take corrective action and comply with the MCL within one year of the violation.

What does this mean?

Some people who drink water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their blood serum cholesterol levels, liver, kidney, immune system, or, in males, reproductive system. Drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over many years may also increase the risk of testicular and kidney cancer. For females, drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over many years may cause developmental delays in a fetus and/or an infant.

Some people who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their immune system, kidney, liver, or endocrine system. For females, drinking water containing PFOS and in excess of the MCL over many years may cause developmental effects and problems with the immune system, liver, or endocrine system in a fetus and/or an infant. Some of these developmental effects can persist through childhood.

For more information refer to

https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_drinking%20water.pdf.

What should I do?

- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.
- If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- Boiling your water will not remove PFOA and PFOS and other Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).

What is being done?

The Borough of Waldwick Water System relies on six water supply wells to provide water to our system. These supply wells are located in the Borough and are operated and maintained by the Borough of Waldwick. The water supply well (Well 6) which had the high concentration in January 2021 was removed from operation as soon as we were notified of the test results. *Temporary treatment for PFAS was installed at Well 6, and the well was returned to service on August 26th.* Well 4 will remain in service. In 2019, prior to the proposal and adoption of MCL's for Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and PFOS, the Borough also removed from operation one water supply well (Well 2) after a water sample result from the well would have caused a RAA for PFOS to exceed a MCL recommendation by the New Jersey Drinking Water Quality Institute regardless of the next three quarter results. Well 2 is expected to remain off until a treatment solution is in place.

Due to potential health effects of PFOA and PFOS, we began voluntarily monitoring for these compounds beginning in 2019. These results have been provided to you in our 2021 Consumer Confidence Report containing 2020 data, which can be found on the webpage <https://www.waldwicknj.org/waterdepartment>. These analyses were an important part of preparing for the possibility that treatment might be needed to comply with future regulations.

We are in the engineering stages of permanent treatment for our system and anticipate having water treatment facilities installed at each well facility in 2022. You will likely receive additional PFOS and PFOA notification letters until the water treatment facilities are online and our system's RAAs are in compliance with the PFOS and PFOA MCLs. Until then, we will continue to look for temporary treatment options as well as shutting off the wells with the highest levels of exceedance if needed.

Additional information regarding PFOA and PFOS is available on the Borough Water Department Webpage: www.waldwicknj.org/waterdepartment

For more information, please contact the Borough of Waldwick Water Department at 201-652-5300 x 240 or at 63 Franklin Turnpike, Waldwick, NJ 07463.

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 the Borough of Waldwick Water System.

State Water System ID#: NJ0264001

Date distributed: September 7, 2021