



## BOROUGH OF WALDWICK WATER DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
63 FRANKLIN TURNPIKE  
WALDWICK, NEW JERSEY 07463  
201-652-5300

March 1, 2021

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

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

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manmade chemicals that repel oil and water and are resistant to heat and chemical reactions. PFAS are used in the production of some non-stick cookware, in waterproof and stain proof coatings, in “leak-proof” coatings on food package materials, in fire-fighting foams, and in other uses. PFAS can enter drinking water through industrial release to water, air, or soil; discharges from sewage treatment plants; land application of contaminated sludge; and use of fire-fighting foam.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has standards for three compounds within the PFAS class of chemicals: PFOS, PFOA, and PFNA. NJDEP first required monitoring of PFNA in Q1 of 2019, and first required monitoring of PFOA and PFOS in Q1 of 2021.

We routinely monitor our water system for the presence of drinking water contaminants. **On February 9, 2021, we received 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.** The New Jersey standard for PFOS is 0.013 µg/L, and PFOS at the one well was found at 0.084 µg/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 quarter results. Once an MCL violation is exceeded we must take corrective action within one year of the violation.

#### What does this mean?

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 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.

More information on PFAS in drinking water can be found in the New Jersey Department of Health’s drinking water facts on the subject. The web address for that document is:

[https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas\\_drinking%20water.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_drinking%20water.pdf)

#### What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- 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.

## What is being done?

The Borough of Waldwick Water System relies on 6 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 which had the high concentration in January, 2021 was removed from operation as soon as we were notified of the test results. In 2019, prior to the proposal and adoption of MCL's for PFOA and PFOS, the Borough also removed from operation one water supply well after a water sample result from the well would have caused a RAA to exceed a MCL recommendation by the New Jersey Drinking Water Quality Institute, regardless of the next three quarter results. Both of these water supply wells are expected to remain off until a treatment solution is in place.

Due to the 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 Consumer Confidence Report for 2020, 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 a future regulation.

**We are in the engineering stages of treatment for our system and anticipate having water treatment facilities installed at each well facility in 2022.** You will likely receive additional PFAS notification letters until the water treatment facilities are on line. Until then, we will continue to look for temporary treatment options as well as shutting off the wells with the highest levels of exceedance.

## Water Sampling Results (2019 through January 2021)

Contaminant	NJDEP MCL	EPA Health Advisory Level	Levels Detected in Waldwick Water
PFOA	14 parts per trillion (ppt) Established June 2020	70 ppt* (Non-enforceable guidance) Announced May 2016	Wells Operational on March 1, 2021: 14 to 23 ppt  Wells Removed from Operation: 12 to 34 ppt
PFOS	13 parts per trillion (ppt) Established June 2020	70 ppt* (Non-enforceable guidance) Announced May 2016	Wells Operational on March 1, 2021: 5.3 to 10 ppt  Wells Removed from Operation: 6.9 to 96 ppt
PFNA	13 parts per trillion (ppt) Established September 2018	None Established	<2 to 4.9 ppt

\*EPA health advisory levels for PFOA and PFOS is a maximum of 70 ppt either individually or combined

The Borough will hold a **virtual water quality meeting on March 10, 2021, at 7:30 pm**, where our professional staff and technical experts will provide information and answer questions about what we are doing to ensure our residents are provided with quality drinking water. Instructions on how to participate in the virtual meeting will be announced on or before March 5<sup>th</sup>, including on <https://www.waldwicknj.org/waterdepartment> and in the Friday Community News email.

For more information, please contact the Borough of Waldwick Water Department at 201-652-5300 x240 or 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.