IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Kingwood Township School Has Levels of Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) Above A Drinking Water Standard

Kingwood Township School Failed to Take Permanent Action to Bring Our Water into Compliance with the Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Within One Year

Our water system recently violated a New Jersey drinking water MCL and requirement, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did to correct this situation.

You were previously notified of the Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) MCL violation through public notices issued on 08/24/2022, 12/21/2022, 01/27/2023 and 04/27/2023.

We routinely monitor for the presence of federal and state regulated drinking water contaminants. During the 3rd quarter of 2022, we initially exceeded the MCL for PFOA at TP001002. Per the New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Act, our water system is required to take any action necessary to bring the water into compliance with the applicable MCL within one-year from the initial violation. Our water system failed to remediate the PFOA MCL violation by the one-year deadline of 07/27/2023.

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 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 07/27/2022, we received notice that the sample collected on 07/11/2022 showed that our system exceeds the PFOA MCL.The RAA for PFOA based on samples collected over the last year is 0.015 µg/L

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 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 and
https://www.nj.gov/dep/pfas/index.html.

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 use 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/pfas/.

What is being done?

We completed the installation of the PFAS treatment system during the month of August 2023, and are currently testing below the MCL on a RAA basis, which is further reflected in the most recent test results taken on 08/18/2023.

Additionally, the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water has received and approved our Corrective Action Completion Certification Form as of 08/30/2023.

However, the reason we missed the deadline was due to due to a supply chain issue, where we had to wait for the delivery of the media tanks, resulting in our system missing the remediation deadline of 07/27/2023. An Administrative Consent Order (ACO) will be submitted, which will have force majeure provisions (for delays beyond your reasonable control) and stipulated penalties (for delays not beyond our reasonable control).

For more information, please contact Michele McCann at (908) 996-2941 or 880 Route 519, Frenchtown, NJ 08825, or Mike Gonnella at (732)522-4123 or 880 Route 519, Frenchtown, NJ 08825

> **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 Kingwood Township School
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