IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Mountain Lakes Water System 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 are doing to correct this situation.

As you know, in the second quarter of 2023 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 have done and are continuing to do to correct this situation. Mountain Lakes Water Department is no longer providing water above the New Jersey PFOA drinking water standard. Specifically, we took the affected well out of service on May 25, 2023.

You were previously notified of the PFOA maximum contaminant level (MCL) violation in public notices issued on 8/1426, 5/14/26, 2/14/26,11/14/25, 8/14/25, 5/14/25, 2/14/25, 12/9/24, 8/14/24 and 5/14,24. Per the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, we will continue to provide you with an updated public notice every 3 months until we complete all approved remedial measures and return to compliance with the MCL.

We routinely monitor 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 July 13, 2023, we received notice that the sample collected on May 25, 2023 showed that our system exceeds the PFOA MCL at TP002004. The last calculated RAA for PFOA is 0.017 ppb. It should be noted, the RAA for PFOA is based on samples collected previously as there are no current results since the source is no longer being used. See “What is being done” below for more information.

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.

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 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. 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 affected well was taken out of service on May 25, 2023. We are also working with our Borough Engineer and Licensed Water Operator to design treatment facilities that will remove the PFOA contaminants in our water supply. We anticipate resolving the problem on or before June 1, 2027.

For more information, please contact Will Ryden at 973-887-2270 or wryden@anderson-denzler.com.

> **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 Mountain Lakes Water Department. State Water System ID#: _NJ1425001_____.
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