

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Rocky Hill Water Department Has Levels of Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) 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. You were previously notified of the PFOS maximum contaminant level (MCL) violation in public notice(s) issued on November 19, 2022. 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 PFOS in 2020 and monitoring began in 2021. The MCL for PFOS is **13** parts per trillion (ppt) and is based on a running annual average (RAA), in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged. **On January 26th 2024**, we received notice that the samples collected on **January 8th 2024**, showed PFOS at **11.8ppt** and that our system exceeds the PFOS MCL at the well test point TP001001. The RAA for PFOS based on samples collected over the last year is **14.7ppt**.

What is PFOS?

Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) is a member of the group of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), that are man-made and used in industrial and commercial applications. PFOS is used in metal plating and finishing as well as in various commercial products. PFOS 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 PFOS 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 PFOS 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?

Health experts consider PFAS in drinking water is a primary source of exposure to PFAS as compared with other background exposure sources such as food, food packaging, consumer products, house dust, indoor and outdoor air, and workplaces where PFAS are used or made. **The new state water standards are intended to minimize increases in exposure and blood serum levels due to consumption of drinking water.** Exposure to PFAS through household uses of water such as showering, bathing, laundry, dishwashing, and rinsing produce is not significant.

**People who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over time could experience problems with their immune system, kidney, liver, or endocrine system. For females, drinking water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over time 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 may persist through childhood.*

** For specific health information see*

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

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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 PFOS is elevated in drinking water.
- Pregnant, nursing, and women considering having children may choose to use bottled water or a home water filter designed to remove PFOS for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOS.
- Other people may also choose to use bottled water for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOS or a home water filter that is certified to reduce levels of PFOS.
- Home water treatment devices are available that can reduce levels of PFOS. 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 PFOS, visit the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) International website, <http://www.nsf.org/>. [NSF does not certify reduction of PFOS to the NJ MCL for PFOS.]
- Boiling your water will not remove PFOS.

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

What is being done?

Rocky Hill is in the construction phase of installing the treatment system to remove PFNA compounds which include PFOS. We anticipate the treatment system will be completed in the first Quarter of 2024.

For more information, please contact:

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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 Rocky Hill Water Department.

State Water System ID#: 1817001

Date distributed: **February 24, 2024**

PFOS Analytical Results Summary for Running Annual Average:

1st Quarter 2024 – Sampled on 1/8/24 Result = 11.8ppt

2nd Quarter 2023 – Sampled on 4/4/23 Result = 16ppt

3rd Quarter 2023 – Sampled on 7/6/23 Result = 15ppt

4th Quarter 2023 – Sampled on 10/17/23 Result = 16ppt

Total = 58.8/4=**14.7ppt** Running Annual Average

PFOS Limit is **13.0ppt**