

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Rocky Hill Water Department Has Levels of Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) Above A Drinking Water Standard

Rocky Hill Water Department Failed to Take Permanent Action to Bring Our Water into Compliance with the Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) 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 are doing to correct this situation.

You were previously notified of the Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) MCL violation at Well #2 TP001001 in public notice(s) issued on November 19, 2022. The most recent public notice and update regarding this matter are available at <https://www.rockyhill-nj.gov/boards-committees/water-sewer-environment-committee-updates>. We routinely monitor for the presence of federal and state regulated drinking water contaminants. During November 2021 we initially exceeded the MCL for Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) at Well #2 TP001001. 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 Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) MCL violation at Well #2 TP001001 by the one-year deadline of November 3, 2022.

FOR PFOS: New Jersey adopted a standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for PFOS in 2020 and monitoring began in 2021. The MCL for PFOS is 0.013 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 [October 17, 2022 we received notice that the sample(s) collected on October 10, 2022 showed that our system exceeds the PFOS MCL. PFOS was found at 17.3 ppt which caused the RAA to exceed the MCL regardless of the next quarter results. The Running Annual Average (RAA) for PFOS based on samples collected over the last year is 15.8ppt.

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?

FOR PFOS: **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 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 PFOS 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 PFOS.
- Other people may also choose to use bottled water for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOS. **FOR PFOS:** Or use a home water filter that is certified to reduce levels of PFOS. Home water treatment devices are available that can reduce levels of PFOS. 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/>.
- 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 process of installing a treatment system to remove PFNA compounds which include PFOS. **We anticipate the treatment system will be completed in the summer of 2023.**

For more information, please contact:

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This notice is being sent to you by Rocky Hill Water Department.

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