



**PLEASE SEE THE “WHAT IS BEING DONE” SECTION FOR UPDATED INFORMATION REGARDING REMEDIAL MEASURES TO THE WATER SYSTEM**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

**Rockaway Township Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) Remedial Measures Update**

Our water system recently exceeded a New Jersey drinking water standard for PFOS, and as our customers, Rockaway Township wanted to be proactive and transparent with you to let you know what is happening in our water system as of today.

We routinely monitor for the presence of federal and state regulated drinking water contaminants. 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** micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) and is based on a running annual average (RAA), in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged. On 1/24/2022, we received notice that the sample collected on 1/11/2022 showed that our system exceeded the PFOS MCL. The resultant sample came back at **0.016**  $\mu\text{g/L}$  which brought our Running Annual Average (RAA) to **0.015**  $\mu\text{g/L}$  which is above the MCL of **0.013**  $\mu\text{g/L}$ .

**What is being done?**

Currently, Rockaway Township has been in communications with the NJDEP in regards to remedial measures to ensure that the best water quality is being provided to our community. Up to this point, Wells 11 and 13 at the Fox Hills Treatment Facility have been removed from service to distribution to ensure compliance with all drinking water standards. However, this is only a temporary solution as peak water usage seasons (Spring and Summer) are coming and will require more production from our system to meet our consumer demands.

With that in mind, Rockaway Township has been exploring ways to effectively produce water to meet system demand at the lowest possible cost for our customers. In the interim, the Water Department has pulled both pumps from Wells 11 and 13 to inspect the aquifer for contamination, sampled and analyzed all pipe doping/taping in the operational equipment to ensure leaching was not occurring, and sampled/analyzed blow off samples to waste to get an idea of resultant concentrations coming out of the effluent.

After compiling all of the certified laboratory results, the water department has come to the conclusion that Well 13 **is not** a point of exceedance for PFOS but Well 11 unfortunately **is**. Rockaway Township has decided to put Well 13 **back into service as certified laboratory results show that the aquifer nor the pumping equipment was a point of concern. (see NJDEP Remedial Measures approval letter)**

As for Well 11, we **will not** be putting this back into distribution and will be partaking in pilot studies to determine best practice operations for treatment.

### **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?**

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

### **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 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. 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/pdf/pfoa-pfos-faq.pdf>.

*\*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.\**

For more information, please contact Ryan Furrey at 973-627-7200 ext. 2825 or by email at [rfurrey@rockawaytownship.org](mailto:rfurrey@rockawaytownship.org).

This notice is being sent to you by Rockaway Township Water Department  
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