

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
PFOA MCL Exceedance at North Castle Water District No. 4
Quarter 1 2024 results

Why are you receiving this notice/information?

You are receiving this notice because testing of our public water system revealed the chemical perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in your drinking water samples from School Street Well No.1 at an average of 11.6 parts per trillion (ppt). This is above New York State's maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 ppt for PFOA in public drinking water systems. Consuming drinking water with PFOA at or somewhat above the MCL does not pose a significant short term health risk. Your water continues to be acceptable for all uses. Water District No.4 is working on a strict timetable to reduce levels below the MCL. This well has been offline for the quarter.

What are the health effects of PFOA?

The available information on the health effects associated with PFOA, like many chemicals, comes from studies of high-level exposure in animals or humans. Less is known about the chances of health effects occurring from lower levels of exposure, such as those that might occur in drinking water. As a result, finding lower levels of chemicals in drinking water prompts water suppliers and regulators to take precautions that include notifying consumers and steps to reduce exposure.

PFOA has caused a wide range of health effects when studied in animals that were exposed to high levels. The most consistent findings in animals were effects on the liver and immune system and impaired fetal growth and development. PFOA also causes cancer in laboratory animals exposed to high levels over their lifetimes. Additional studies of exposures of PFOA in people provide evidence that some of the health effects seen in animals may also occur in humans.

What is New York State doing about PFOA in public drinking water?

The New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) has recently adopted a drinking water regulation that requires all public water systems to test for PFOA. If found above the MCL of 10 ppt, the water supplier must take steps to lower the level to meet the standard. Exceedances of the MCL signal what steps should be taken by the water system to reduce contaminant levels.

What is being done to meet the MCL?

Water District No. 4 has retained a consultant who is working with the Westchester County Health Department on compliance schedule that includes steps to reduce levels of PFOA. Additional information will be shared as further testing and progress occurs. This process is similar for any chemical detected in public drinking water that requires mitigation due to exceedance of an MCL. The compliance timetable will ensure that your drinking water will meet the MCL as rapidly as possible.

As we are currently in design for required treatment our consultant has met with the county health department who have agreed to a "demonstration test" Which means once approved, the new equipment will be installed and specific sampling criteria will be exercised to insure the treatment and removal of PFOA's. This will take place in lieu of the pilot test. The table below illustrates a tentative schedule for implementation.

Tentative PFOA compliance timeline	
TASK	Tentative Date
Consultant (WSP) submits plans & specifications to WCDOH	5/22/2023
WSP receives a comment letter from WCDOH regarding submission	8/7/2023
WSP resubmits to WCDOH with revisions	Four to six weeks after receipt of WCDOH comments
WCDOH issues Approval to Construct	To be determined
North Castle Town Board authorizes bidding of project	One month after Approval to Construct
WSP issues final bidding documents	Two months after Approval to Construct
North Castle Town Board awards bid to low bidder	Two months after issuance of final bid documents
Notice of award is issued to successful contractor	Three months after issuance of final bid documents
WSP receives and approves shop drawing submittals equipment is ordered	One month after bid award
Construction begins & equipment is received	Three months after bid award
Construction complete WSP submits certification & as-builts to WCDOH and schedules a final inspection	Six months after start of construction
Activation of PFOA treatment system & Demonstration Testing begins	Two weeks after final inspection
Demonstration Test completion	Six months after system activation

Specifications for treatment facilities were received by the Health Department on 5/23/23. They issued their most recent review letter on 3/26/24. It is expected to have the departments comments answered by 5/31/24. Once approved, the project will be bid for construction. Additional information will be shared as this process evolves.

Where can I get more information?

For information, please contact the North Castle Water Department, Sal Misiti at 914-273-3000 x55 at 15 Business Park Drive, Armonk, NY 10504. You may also contact the Westchester County Health Department at 914-813-5000.

If you have additional questions about these contaminants and your health, talk to your health care provider who is most familiar with your health history and can provide advice and assistance about understanding how drinking water may affect your personal health.

General information about New York State public drinking water is also available at www.health.ny.gov/publicwater.

Public Water System ID# NY5922909

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