

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
PFOA and PFOS MCL Exceedance at North Castle Water District No. 2
2023 Quarter 1 results

Why are you receiving this notice/information?

You are receiving this notice because testing of our public water system found the chemical perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in water from well #2 with an average of 18.9ppt. Note that Well No. 2. is currently not in use because its yield has been significantly depleted. These results are above New York State's maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 ppt for PFOA in public drinking water systems. The MCL is set well below levels known or estimated to cause health effects. Consuming drinking water with PFOA at or somewhat above the MCL does not pose a significant health risk. Your water continues to be acceptable for all uses. Water District No. 2 is working on a strict timetable to reduce levels below the MCL.

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 does prompt 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. Additional studies of high-level exposures of PFOA in people provide evidence that some of the health effects seen in animals may also occur in humans. The most consistent findings in animals were effects on the liver and immune system and impaired fetal growth and development. The United States Environmental Protection Agency considers PFOA as having suggestive evidence for causing cancer based on studies of animals exposed to high levels of this chemical over their entire lifetimes.

At the level of PFOA detected in your water, exposure from drinking water and food preparation is well below PFOA exposures associated with health effects.

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 signals that steps should be taken by the water system to reduce contaminant levels.

What is being done to meet the MCL?

Water District No. 2 was issued a compliance schedule by the Westchester County Health Department of 120 days to come up with an approvable treatment plan. The Town consulting engineer submitted feasibility for the recommended treatment for PFOA study to the WCDOH. WCDOH has indicated that it has no objection to the recommendations of the proposed treatment methods, but require a pilot study prior to implementation. Currently the consulting engineer has prepared a pilot study plan of the proposed ion exchange treatment for WCDOH evaluation, which was submitted on March 16, 2023 for approval. Once approved by WCDOH, next steps will be taken to install the pilot system and collect the required data.

Additionally, as the brunt of our exceedance issues are associated with Well No.2 which we do not use due to its low yield, and rehabilitation for an increase of the well yield would once again prove unsuccessful, we will begin the process of decommissioning the well. Once decommissioned, the requirement to sample will no longer be required.

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.

Where can I get more information?

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

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.

Public Water System ID# NY5903446

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Additional information can be found on the EPA web site: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-PFOA/PFOS -and-pfos>
New York State Health Department web site:
<https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/>