

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
PFOA MCL Exceedance at North Castle Water District No. 4
Quarter 1 2023 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 School St. well #1 with an average result of 11.3ppt. This is above New York State's maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10ppt 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. 4 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 signal that 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 treatment that includes steps to reduce levels of PFOA.

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	5/8/2023
WSP receives a comment letter from WCDOH regarding submission	7/8/2023
WSP resubmits to WCDOH with revisions	8/8/2023
WCDOH issues Approval to Construct	11/8/2023
North Castle Town Board authorizes bidding of project	12/13/2023
WSP issues final bidding documents	2/1/2024
North Castle Town Board awards bid to low bidder	4/1/2024
Notice of award is issued to successful contractor	5/1/2024
WSP receives and approves shop drawing submittals equipment is ordered	7/15/2024
Construction begins & equipment is received	9/15/2024
Construction complete WSP submits certification & as-builts to WCDOH and schedules a final inspection	1/15/2025
Activation of PFOA treatment system & Demonstration Testing begins	1/30/2025
Demonstration Test completion	6/30/2025

Additional information will be shared as this process evolves. It is expected to have plans to the health department for review in the coming weeks.

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# NY5922909

Date 4/25/2023

Additional information can be found on the EPA web site: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>

New York State Health Department web site:

<https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/>