

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

PFOA MCL Exceedance at North Castle Water District No. 4

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 at 11.8 ppt. This is 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. 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 is working with the Westchester County Health Department on a compliance schedule that includes steps to reduce levels of PFOA. Certain methods are being considered in order to resolve the MCL exceedance. 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# NY5922909

Date 11/30/2021

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/>



TOWN OF NORTH CASTLE
Water and Sewer Department
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TO: Water District #4
FROM: Sal Misiti, Director of Water and Sewer
RE: PFOS/PFOA- 2021 Third Quarter sampling in Water District #4
DATE: November 30, 2021

Information regarding the attached notice:

Earlier this year, water systems that serve less than 3,300 people have been regulated to begin sampling their source water (wells) for PFOA/PFOS and 1,4-dioxane. The attached notice describes a sample result exceedance requiring public notification. The notice includes required language that is derived from a NYSDOH template with specific language and formatting, requiring approval of both Westchester County and NYS before distribution.

What are PFOAs & PFOSs :

The purpose of this notice is to explain more clearly, what is happening in your water district. Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) are found in many products on the market including: personal care products, water proof clothing, Tyvek, fabric softeners, plastics, tape, and teflon cookware, just to name a few.

MCLs and Health Risks

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set a health advisory of 70 parts per **Trillion**. However, the State of New York Department of Health set the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 ppt for PFOA/PFOS in drinking water systems. Because MCLs are set at levels with a large margin of protection, an exceedance of an MCL does not signal an immediate health risk; it signals the need for water systems to take actions to reduce exposures.

MCLs are set at levels well below those that have caused health effects in laboratory animal studies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and DOH rely largely on animal studies to set drinking water standards because controlled laboratory experiments provide the strongest evidence for understanding risks of health effects in people. Human studies are also reviewed in setting MCLs, but these studies are less controlled and therefore have more uncertainties.

What WD4 is doing about it and how will this be remedied?

As indicated in the attached notice the sample results collected from School Street well#1 slightly exceeded the MCL. This well is not the only source used for supplying drinking water in WD4; however, we are still required to provide a plan of action. School St Well#1 makes up a lower percentage of the overall water supplied to the district. The other wells that are online did not have an exceedance. Samples are required to be collected directly from the source before any treatment.

Our School Street treatment system for this well already has Granular Activated Carbon installed which is a key in managing PFOA.

A consulting engineer will be retained for the design services necessary to develop an acceptable plan for the treatment system upgrade or enhancement. WD#4 is working with the Westchester County Health Department to develop a plan as the treatment system may require modifications to maintain levels of PFOA below the MCL.

For Questions and more information:

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<https://www.epa.gov/pfas>

New York State Health Department web site:

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

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

https://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/PFAS_FactSheet.html

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