



BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES

LISTED IN NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTERS OF HISTORIC PLACES

PFOA Special Presentation

August 14, 2023



Summary

- On or before August 13, 2023, the Borough's Water Utility sent a notice to water customers regarding the shut-down of one of the system's wells, specifically Well #4, which is one of the locations where water enters our system (i.e., before it is treated, not at the tap).
- The Water Utility detected a Running Annual Average (RAA) of Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) at 17 parts per trillion (ppt) at Well #4, above the New Jersey drinking water standard of 14 ppt.
- This is the first time that a Borough well has returned a RAA of PFOA not in compliance with NJDEP requirements.
- Well #4 has been shut down and the Borough is developing remedial measures in conjunction with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).
- Other NJ towns have been affected by PFOA and must also remediate.



What is PFOA?

- PFOA is one of several contaminants under the broader category of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), including perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA).
- These are manmade chemicals used in industrial and commercial uses such as, e.g., non-stick cookware, waterproof and stain proof coatings, leak-proof coatings on food packaging, fire-fighting foams, etc. PFAS chemicals can be found in water, air, fish, and soil at locations across the nation and the globe.
- PFAS can get into drinking water when products or wastes containing them are used, disposed of, or spilled onto the ground or into lakes and rivers. PFAS can move easily through the ground, getting into groundwater that is used for some water supplies or for private drinking water wells. PFAS released by facilities into the air can also end up in rivers and lakes used for drinking water.
- The following available resources include additional background information:
 - NJ Department of Health: https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_drinking_water.pdf
 - NJDEP: <https://dep.nj.gov/pfas/drinking-water/#how-is-dep-implementing-the-state-mcls-for-pfoa-pfos-and-pfna>
 - US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA): https://19january2021snapshot.epa.gov/sites/static/files/2021-01/documents/pfas_factsheet_jan2021-v5.pdf
 - USEPA: https://19january2021snapshot.epa.gov/sites/static/files/2018-03/documents/pfasv15_2pg_0.pdf



Borough Timeline

- **2020.** Replacing previous NJDEP advisory that set a guideline of 40 ppt, NJDEP adopts an enforceable regulation or Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) which lowers acceptable PFOA limit to 14 ppt. The limit is applied based on a RAA, in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged. Since February 2019, the Borough's Water Utility has tested its wells for PFOA on a quarterly basis. A Consumer Confidence Report outlining the Borough's monitoring for regulated contaminants is produced annually and available on the Borough's website.
- **June 2022.** USEPA updates Lifetime Health Advisories for PFOA and PFOS, setting advisory levels at any detectable level. This replaced 2016 non-enforceable drinking water Lifetime Health Advisories for PFOA and PFOS of 70 ppt individually or when combined.
- **February/March 2023.** Water Utility detects rising levels of PFOA in Well #4 that could affect RAA. Utility adjusts system settings, so water is not pulled by Well #4 unless necessary.
- **May 2023.** Well #4 is taken out of service after a reading suggests a RAA higher than 14ppt. Results reported to NJDEP.
- **July 2023.** Formal notice from NJDEP. Two requirements that must be done by August 13 include to: (i) send public notification to water customers with content confirmed by NJDEP; and (ii) develop a remedial measures report. Both of these actions have been completed.
- **August 2023.** PFOA Special Presentation by Borough Council.



Are other towns affected by PFOA?

- Yes, other NJ towns are affected. Those that are affected must send similar notices to their residents.
- See the NJDEP resource listing affected public water systems, including those in Morris County:

<https://njems.nj.gov/DataMiner/Report/ReportCriteria?APIKEY=DEP123&showheader=y&isExternal=y&getCriteria=y&BOReportName=Public%20Water%20Systems%20with%20PFAS%20MCL%20Violations&=>



Next steps

- Ongoing public notices must continue to be issued every three (3) months until compliance is achieved.
- DEP regulations require actions necessary to bring the water into compliance. The Borough is working with our Borough Engineer and Licensed Water Operator to design treatment facilities that will remove the PFOA contaminants in our water supply. NJDEP informed that anticipated timeline is 12 to 18 months.
- The Borough has retained counsel to join pending litigations to recover anticipated remediation costs associated with PFOA contamination as a precautionary measure.
- The Borough does not anticipate the shut-down of Well #4 to affect water availability. The Borough's other wells should be sufficient to meet the Borough's water needs while well #4 is shut off pending remediation.
- Review and implement remediation plan.



Q&A