



BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES

LISTED IN NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTERS OF HISTORIC PLACES

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Dear Residents and Water Consumers,

In August 2023, the Borough sent out a notice informing residents and water consumers that the Borough's Water Utility had detected a Running Annual Average level of Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) at 17 parts per trillion at one of the locations where water enters our system (i.e., Denville Wellfield Treatment Plant, TP002004) , specifically Well #4. This level is above the New Jersey drinking water standard of 14 parts per trillion. In response, the Borough shut down Well #4 and is in the process of developing a remediation plan in conjunction with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to resolve the issue so Well #4 can be returned to service.

How is this affecting the quality of my drinking water?

Well 4 was temporarily taken out of service on May 25, 2023 and will not be put back into service until treatment is installed to address the PFOA levels. While the Borough has temporarily removed the affected source from service, I encourage you to review all available information and speak with your healthcare provider if you have a specific concern.

Is this affecting water availability in Mountain Lakes?

No, the Borough's three other wells are sufficient to meet the Borough's water needs while Well #4 is shut down pending remediation.

Are other towns in NJ affected by PFOA?

Yes, other NJ towns are affected. Those that are affected must send similar notices to their residents.

Why am I receiving another letter about this issue?

As a regulated water utility, the Borough's water system is required by the NJDEP to send the attached public notice to water consumers every 3 months until the issue with Well #4 is remediated and test results show levels are in compliance with the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). It will take a year or more for this work to be completed, so you can expect to receive several more letters from the Borough on this topic.

Sincerely,

Mitchell Stern
Borough Manager

05/14/2024

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Mountain Lakes Water System Has Levels of Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) Above A Drinking Water Standard

Our water system violated a New Jersey drinking water standard, and as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of federal and state regulated drinking water contaminants. New Jersey adopted a standard, or MCL, for PFOA in 2020 and monitoring began in 2021. The MCL for PFOA is 0.014 parts per billion (ppb) and is based on a running annual average (RAA), in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged. On July 14, 2023, we received notice that the sample collected on May 25, 2023 showed that our system exceeds the PFOA MCL at TP002004. The RAA for PFOA based on samples collected over the last year is 0.017 ppb.

What is PFOA?

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) is a member of the group of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), used as a processing aid in the manufacture of fluoropolymers used in non-stick cookware and other products, as well as other commercial and industrial uses, based on its resistance to harsh chemicals and high temperatures. PFOA has also been used in aqueous film-forming foams for firefighting and training, and it is found in consumer products such as stain-resistant coatings for upholstery and carpets, water-resistant outdoor clothing, and greaseproof food packaging. Major sources of PFOA in drinking water include discharge from industrial facilities where it was made or used and the release of aqueous film-forming foam. Although the use of PFOA has decreased substantially, contamination is expected to continue indefinitely because it is extremely persistent in the environment and is soluble and mobile in water.

What does this mean?

**People who drink water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over time could experience problems with their blood serum cholesterol levels, liver, kidney, immune system, or, in males, the reproductive system. Drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over time may also increase the risk of testicular and kidney cancer. For females, drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over time may cause developmental delays in a fetus and/or an infant. Some of these developmental effects may persist through childhood.*

** For specific health information, see*

https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_drinking%20water.pdf.

What should I do?

- Anyone concerned about their health should consult with their personal healthcare provider.
- The New Jersey Department of Health advises that infant formula and other beverages for infants, such as plain water or juice, should be prepared with bottled water when PFOA is elevated in drinking water.
- Pregnant, nursing, and women considering having children may choose to use bottled water or a home filter designed to remove PFOA for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOA.

- Other people may also choose to use bottled water for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOA or a home water filter that is certified to reduce levels of PFOA.
- Home water treatment devices are available that can reduce levels of PFOA. If a water treatment device is used, it is important to follow the manufacturer's guidelines for maintenance and operation. For more specific information regarding the effectiveness of home water filters for reducing PFOA, visit the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) International website, <http://www.nsf.org/>. [NSF does not certify reduction of PFOA to the NJ MCL for PFOA.]
- Boiling your water will not remove PFOA.

For more information, see <https://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/pfas/>.

What is being done?

The affected well was taken out of service on May 25, 2023. We are also working with our Borough Engineer and Licensed Water Operator to design treatment facilities that will remove the PFOA contaminants in our water supply. We anticipate resolving the problem within 12 to 18 months.

For more information, please contact William Ryden at 973-887-2270 or wryden@anderson-denzler.com.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the Mountain Lakes Water Department. State Water System ID#: 1425001.

Date distributed: May 14, 2024