



**BOROUGH OF OAKLAND, NEW JERSEY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**Oakland Water Department**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

**The Oakland Water System (NJ0242001) Has Levels of Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) Above A Drinking Water Standard**

**The Oakland Water System Failed to Take Permanent Action to Bring Our Water into Compliance with the Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Within One Year**

Our water system recently exceeded two New Jersey drinking water standards, 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. "For more information, please contact the Oakland Water Department at (201) 337-8104 or [water2@oakland-nj.org](mailto:water2@oakland-nj.org)."

You were previously notified of the PFOA and PFOS MCL violations at Well 5 and Well 10 in public notice(s) issued on May 3, 2022 and July 8, 2022. The most recent public notice and update regarding this matter are available at <https://www.oakland-nj.org/public-works/pages/water-utility>. Per the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, we will continue to provide you with an updated public notice every 3 months until we complete all approved remedial measures and return to compliance with the MCL.

We routinely monitor for the presence of federal and state regulated drinking water contaminants. During July 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021 we initially exceeded the MCL for PFOA and PFOS at Well 10. Per the New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Act, our water system is required to take any action necessary to bring the water into compliance with the applicable MCL within one-year from the initial violation. Our water system failed to remediate the PFOA and PFOS MCL violations at Well 10 by the one-year deadline of September 15, 2022.

New Jersey adopted a standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for PFOA and PFOS in 2020 and monitoring began in 2021. The MCL for PFOA is 0.014 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) and the MCL for PFOS is 0.013 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ). The MCL for both PFOA and PFOS is based on a running annual average (RAA), in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged. On September 20th 2022, we received notice that the samples collected on August 25<sup>th</sup> 2022 and September 13<sup>th</sup> 2022 showed that our system exceeds the PFOA and PFOS MCL at Well 10 which is one of seven wells. The RAA for PFOA based on samples collected over the last year at Well 10 is 0.017  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . The RAA for PFOS based on samples collected over the last year at Well 10 is 0.018  $\mu\text{g/L}$ .

You were previously notified on May 3, 2022 that Well 5 exceeded the RAA for PFOA. We removed Well 5 from service and only run it for sampling or if needed for emergency situations. While the RAA for the monitoring period ending September 2022 at Well 5 is below the PFOA MCL, to comply with the PFOA MCL permanent treatment must be installed and demonstrate efficiency with sample results below the PFOA MCL for two consecutive monitoring periods.

### **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 is PFOS?**

Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) is a member of the group of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), that are man-made and used in industrial and commercial applications. PFOS is used in metal plating and finishing as well as in various commercial products. PFOS 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 PFOS 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 PFOS 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.*

*\*People who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over time could experience problems with their immune system, kidney, liver, or endocrine system. For females, drinking water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over time may cause developmental effects and problems with the immune system, liver, or endocrine system 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](https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_drinking%20water.pdf).

### What should I do?

- If you have specific health concerns, a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at higher risk than other individuals and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.
- The New Jersey Department of Health advises that infant formula and other beverages for infants, such as juice, should be prepared with bottled water when PFOA and PFOS is elevated in drinking water.
- Pregnant, nursing, and women considering having children may choose to use bottled water for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOA and PFOS.
- Other people may also choose to use bottled water for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOA and PFOS or a home water filter that is certified to reduce levels of PFOA and PFOS. Home water treatment devices are available that can reduce levels of PFOA. For more specific information regarding the effectiveness of home water filters for reducing PFOA and PFOS, visit the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) International website, <http://www.nsf.org/>.
- Boiling your water will not remove PFOA and PFOS.

For more information, see <https://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/pdf/pfoa-pfos-faq.pdf>.

### What is being done?

The Oakland Water System relies on water supply wells to provide water to our system. These supply wells are located in the Borough and are owned, operated and maintained by the Borough of Oakland water department. **We are in the engineering stages of treatment for our system to remove PFOA and PFOS in the drinking water at Well 10 and Well 5 and anticipate having a water treatment facility installed by the end of 2023.**

For more information, please contact the Borough of Oakland Water Department at 201-337-8104.

*\*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 Borough of Oakland Water Department. State Water System ID#: NJ0242001.

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