IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Essex Fells water system has levels of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) above drinking water standards.

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

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. The New Jersey standard for PFOA is 0.014 µg/L (or parts per billion) and is based on a running annual average (RAA). On September 1, 2021 we received notice that based upon samples collected in the first three quarters of 2021, the RAA's for the third quarter were 0.015 µg/l, 0.016 µg/l and 0.022 µg/l, for our treatment plants TP001001, TP002015 and TP003020, respectively. All of these values exceed the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 0.014 µg/l for PFOA and will continue to exceed regardless of the fourth quarter results.

What does this notification mean?
Some people who drink water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their blood serum cholesterol levels, liver, kidney, immune system, or, in males, reproductive system. Drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over many years may also increase the risk of testicular and kidney cancer. For females, drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over many years may cause developmental delays in a fetus and/or an infant.

For additional information, including answers to frequently asked questions, please refer to https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_drinking%20water.pdf and

https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/supporting-documents-drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos

or visit www.essexfellsboro.com/pages/pfoa

What should I do?

- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.
- If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- Boiling your water will not remove PFOA.

What is being done?
The Borough of Essex Fells has engaged the services of a professional engineering firm to design treatment facilities to remove the PFOA contaminants in our water supply. We anticipate resolving the problem within 12 to 18 months.

To view all the drinking water quality data collected by the Essex Fells visit https://www9.state.nj.us/DEP_WaterWatch_public/index.jsp and enter NJ0706001 for the PWSID.

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 Essex Fells Water Depart., Water System ID#: NJ0706001.

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