IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING 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 did/are doing to correct this situation.

**OR**

**ALTERNATIVE OPTION:** Our water system purchases water from [Water System Name]. [Water System Name] 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 did/are doing to correct this situation.

**OR**

As you know, in the first/second/third/fourth quarter of [year] 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 have done and are continuing to do to correct this situation. [System] is no longer providing water above the New Jersey PFOA drinking water standard. Specifically, we [describe corrective actions taken so far so that the water being served is below the MCL. (e.g., removed the well or treatment plant from service)].

**IF A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH IS SPOKEN BY A POPULATION OF 10% OR MORE WITHIN A MUNICIPALITY, BASED ON US CENSUS DATA, REPEAT THE ABOVE STATEMENTS AND INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN ENGLISH AND THE APPLICABLE LANGUAGE(S):** “Contact [name of contact] at [phone number] or [mailing address] **OPTION:** or [email address] for questions or to obtain a translated copy of this public notice.”

**Ongoing only:** You were previously notified of the PFOA maximum contaminant level (MCL) violation in public notice(s) issued on [date(s)]. 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 [or Water System Name] routinely monitors 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 PFOAis 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 [date], we received notice that the sample(s) collected on [date(s)] showed that our system [or Water System Name] exceeds the PFOA MCL at [Treatment Plant(s) Identification Number(s)]. **OPTION 1: The most recent Running Annual Average Calculated** The RAA for PFOA based on samples collected over the last year is [level] ppb. **OPTION 2: High Value Detected and Will Continue to Exceed** PFOA was found at [level] ppb which caused the RAA to exceed the MCL regardless of the next [number] quarter results**.** **OPTION 3: No results at TP for this current quarter but ongoing PN required** It should be noted, the RAA for PFOA is based on samples collected previously as there are no current results since the source is no longer being used. See “What is being done” below for more information.

**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?**

[Describe corrective action]. We anticipate resolving the problem within [estimated time frame].

\*For community water systems, if only one portion of the service area is impacted and you were granted permission from the state to limit the distribution of the public notice, it is highly recommended to include a map of the afflicted area. The system should copy and paste a map below if it elects to include one\*

**OPTION**: Only a portion of our service area, specifically [area] is affected by this public notice. Please see find a map illustrating the affected area [attached/enclosed/below].

For more information, please contact [name of contact] at [phone number] or [mailing address] **OPTION:** or [email address].

*\*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 [System]. State Water System ID#: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Date distributed: \_\_\_\_\_ \_.