IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Upper Greenwood Lake Elementary School Water System Has Levels of Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS) and Perfluorooctane Acid (PFOA) Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently violated two New Jersey drinking water standards. 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 drinking water contaminants. New Jersey adopted a standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for PFOS & PFOA in 2020 and monitoring began in 2021. The MCL for PFOS is 13 ng/L and PFOA is 14 ng/L and each is based on a running annual average (RAA), in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged. On June 13, 2022, we received notice that the RAA based on samples collected in the June 1, 2022 for PFOA and PFOS showed our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for PFOA and PFOS. The current RAA for PFOA is 125 ng/L and for PFOS is 30 ng/L.

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 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?

**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. Some of these developmental effects can persist through childhood.*

*Some people who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their immune system, kidney, liver, or endocrine system. For females,

drinking water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over many years 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 can persist through childhood.

More information on PFAS/PFOA in drinking water can be found in the New Jersey Department of Health's drinking water facts on the subject. The web address for that document is:

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 PFOS and PFOA 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 PFOS and PFOA.
- Other people may also choose to use bottled water for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOS and PFOA or a home water filter that is certified to reduce levels of PFOS and PFOA. Home water treatment devices are available that can reduce levels of PFOS. For more specific information regarding the effectiveness of home water filters for reducing PFOS, visit the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) International website, http://www.nsf.org/.
- Boiling your water will not remove PFOS and PFOA.

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

What is being done?

We anticipate resolving the problem by July 2022. Upper Greenwood Lake will meet with an engineer and contractor to design a treatment system. Treatment for PFAS will be installed by July of 2022. In addition, Upper Greenwood Lake will continue monitoring PFAS. Once treatment is installed, samples will be taken to ensure that Upper Greenwood Lake meets compliance requirements for PFAS.

For more information, please contact Barbara Francisco at (973) 697-1700 or 41 Henry Rd, Hewitt, NJ 07421.

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 Upper Greenwood Lake Elementary School. State Water System ID# NJ1615312.
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