

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

On January 24, 2022 Rockaway Township was informed that the Fox Hills Treatment facility POE exceeded for PFOS with a result of 0.015 ug/L. The regulatory standard for PFOS as per the NJDEP is 0.013 ug/L. As such, in January, testing revealed that 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. It is important for you to know that the changes we have made to our water delivery system have brought the water that is currently being delivered to your sinks, showers, bathtubs, etc. into compliance with the New Jersey and Federal standards.

**This public notification is being distributed to our customers per Federal Rule 40 C.F.R. 141.203 for our PFOS drinking water violation. The NJDEP has approved our remedial actions including the recently implemented temporary remedial measures outlined below. Current levels of PFOS are below the MCL, however; Rockaway Township must continue to issue public notice every three months informing you of the situation until permanent remedial actions are implemented. Please read this notice in its entirety.**

### What is being done?

Rockaway's water system combines water from different well sources into a singular water treatment facility and distribution center. On a regular basis, the Township samples and analyzes all points of entry (POE) to the treatment facility / distribution system to ensure compliance with all regulated compounds. Through continued sampling, Rockaway has identified one of its wells as being the main source of the high PFOS levels and has temporarily shut down the flow of water from that well (Well 11) to the treatment facility. This temporary shut-down has brought the balance of the water system into compliance.

**Proof that the water being delivered as a result of Rockaway Township's proactive remedial steps to reduce PFOS levels in the water supply, may be found by reviewing the water samples taken on 4/8/22 and 4/29/22 respectively in which resultant values came back below the MCL.** You can find the resultant values on our website at ([Your Water System | Rockaway, NJ \(rockawaytownship.org\)](https://www.rockawaytownship.org/Your-Water-System))

The water department will continue the shutdown of Well 11 until treatment of that well reaches compliance and makes it available for usage. Currently, Rockaway Township is gathering specifications to get single point carbon filtration vessels put onsite to combat PFOS in the water supply. To assist in volume, well 13 has been put back into operation at a reduced capacity.

In addition, Rockaway Township has begun work on refurbishing existing pump houses at the other 3 facilities to optimize pumping capabilities to ensure that operations can continue to keep up with system demand. These upgrades have even allowed the Township to cut back on water being purchased which will help with operating costs.

### 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 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 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 PFOS.
- Other people may also choose to use bottled water for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOS or a home water filter that is certified to reduce levels of PFOS. 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.

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

*\*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.\**

For more information, please contact Ryan Furrey at 973-627-7200 ext. 2825 or by email at [rfurrey@rockawaytownship.org](mailto:rfurrey@rockawaytownship.org).

This notice is being sent to you by Rockaway Township Water Department  
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