

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Verona Water Department System Had Levels of Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) Above A Drinking Water Standard

As you know, in the second quarter of 2021, the Verona 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 already done and are continuing to do to correct this situation. Verona is no longer providing water above the New Jersey PFOA drinking water standard. Specifically, on July 28, 2021, we stopped using our Fairview Avenue Well and proceeded to purchase all drinking water for Verona residents from the Passaic Valley Water Commission which does not exceed the PFOA standard.

You were previously notified of the PFOA maximum contaminant level (MCL) violation in public notice(s) issued on April 8, 2022; January 21, 2022; and September 21, 2021. We will continue to provide updates on our website every 3 months until we complete all approved remedial measures and return to compliance with the MCL: <https://www.veronanj.org/watersupply>.

We routinely monitor for the presence of federal and state regulated drinking water contaminants. New Jersey adopted a standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for PFOA in 2020 and monitoring began in 2021. The MCL for PFOA is 14 parts per trillion and is based on a running annual average (RAA), in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged. On July 22, 2021, we received notice that the sample collected from the Fairview Avenue Well (TP002001) on 6/30/2021 showed that our system exceeds the PFOA MCL. PFOA was found at 33.5 parts per trillion which caused the RAA to exceed the MCL regardless of the next two (2) quarter results. It should be noted, the RAA was found at 17 parts per trillion; however, there are no current results since the source is no longer being used.

What is PFOA?

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) is 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?

Typically, the Township of Verona blends water purchased from the Passaic Valley Water Commission with water supplied by our well. Although the New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Act allows water systems a year following a violation to bring the drinking water into compliance with the MCL, as of July 28, 2021, the Township removed the Fairview Avenue Well from service and began purchasing all water for Verona residents from the Passaic Valley Water Commission.

Our other treatment plant, the Linn Drive Well, was out of service for repair during the first half of 2021 so sampling did not occur. However, based on the results of preliminary samples taken in 2020, we expect water from the Linn Drive Well will also exceed the MCL for PFOA. Although we do not currently have a violation for the Linn Drive Well, the Township will keep the Linn Drive Well out of service.

As stated above, the Township is now solely utilizing water purchased from the Passaic Valley Water Commission (NJ1605002) until such time as we can remediate this issue. The water from the Passaic Valley Water Commission does not exceed the contamination limits for PFOA per the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) regulations. Accordingly, the water currently being distributed to the Township's water users meets all drinking water standards and is safe to drink.

Milestones for treatment installation:

- Design Drawings & Specifications for The Linn Drive Well by The Jacob's Engineering Firm are 90% complete. The Fairview Well is in the design phase.
- The Township continues to look forward to completion dates for the remediation of The Linn Drive Well on or about November 1, 2024.
- The Fairview Avenue Well remediation is anticipated to be completed on or about July 1, 2025.
- The Township adopted a bond ordinance for preliminary planning and expenses for treatment in 2021.

For more information, please contact the Department of Public Works, Chuck Molinaro
Ph.: (973) 857-4806, Email: cmolinaro@veronanj.org

Documents regarding the Townships Remedial Measures can be viewed at:
<https://www.veronanj.org/watersupply>

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 the Verona Water Department. State Water System ID#: NJ0720001. Date distributed:

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