



TOWNSHIP OF VERONA COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY

March 29, 2024

Dear Verona Residents,

Enclosed are regulatory notices advising you of certain drinking water updates. Please be advised that test results from the 1st quarter of 2024 confirm that the water currently meets New Jersey's drinking water standard for PFOA and TTHM and satisfies all other state and federal water quality requirements. These attached notices are a regulatory requirement and part of the Township's action plan in response to prior test results. Please review the notices for more details.

Update on Drinking Water Wells

Historically, Verona has produced at least 50% of our own water through two wells located at Linn Drive and Fairview Avenue. Since 2021, PFAS limitations have caused Verona to purchase 100% of its water supply from the Passaic Valley Water Commission. While this action was more costly than supplying our own water, it kept all PFOA levels within the NJ limit of 14 parts per trillion (ppt).

Since this time, Verona has been diligently working on upgrading our drinking water wells. These efforts will result in new and improved wells that meet and exceed all NJ and federal standards.

Verona will be breaking ground this spring on our first well, the Linn Drive Well. Verona has been awarded a \$2M grant by the State's Infrastructure Bank to reduce capital costs associated with the Linn Drive Well. The Township is also fortunate to be entering the construction phase during a competitive bid market which resulted in bid results 33% lower than original cost estimates. The combination of a competitive bid market and the grant award has resulted in Verona being responsible for only \$262,337 (or 11.6%) of the \$2,262,337 total project cost for the Linn Drive Well. The same benefits are anticipated for the second well, the Fairview Avenue Well, and will be announced later this summer after bids are received.

The upgrades to our drinking water wells will allow the Township to increase our own production, become more self-sufficient and reduce long-term operational costs.

Upcoming EPA Regulation

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has proposed a new federal rule with respect to PFOA that it aims to finalize and adopt in the first quarter of 2024. The proposed rule would set the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for PFOA at 4 ppt - which is lower than the current NJ standard of 14 ppt. As drafted, the new federal requirement would become effective 3 years after the final rule is adopted.

Once our main PFOA treatment facility begins operating in 2024, PFOA levels in the water that we supply to you will be below 4 ppt. Thus, we do not need to alter the design or construction plans for our new PFOA facilities in anticipation of the new federal rule. If the applicable MCL is lowered from 14 to 4 ppt, the main impact on our water system will be in the form of more frequent filter media changes at our new treatment facilities, which will increase our water system's operating costs.

Update on TTHM

As previously noticed, the Township collected water samples in 2023 for regular testing and there were three testing locations where TTHM levels exceeded the State standard. The Township implemented a more frequent hydrant flushing program over the course of 2023 and early 2024 in accordance with the State's approved action plan. As a result, all three locations received fully compliant test results in the first quarter of 2024.

For more information, please contact Public Works Superintendent, Chuck Molinaro at (973) 857-4806 or cmolinaro@veronanj.org.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

VERONA WATER DEPARTMENT has Levels of Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) Above the Drinking Water Standard

Our water system had violated the drinking water standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL) for TTHM from 10/1/23 to 12/31/23 during the fourth quarter monitoring period. You were previously notified of the third quarter monitoring period violation in December 2023. We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

The standard for TTHM is 80 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$). It is determined by averaging all the samples collected at each sampling location for the past 12 months (a locational running annual average (LRAA)). The LRAA level(s) of TTHM at 1 of 4 sampling locations exceeded the standard:

Sample Point ID	Sample Site Address	LRAA ($\mu\text{g/L}$)
NEP	151 Fairview Ave	86

For more details see NJ Drinking Water Watch at: https://www9.state.nj.us/DEP_WaterWatch_public/index.jsp and enter the New Jersey public water system identification number (PWSID) at the bottom of this notice.

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.
- 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.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours. TTHM are four volatile organic chemicals all of which form when disinfectants react with natural organic matter in the water. This is commonly known as a disinfection by-product (DBP).

**People who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the standard or MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. **

What is being done?

- We are working to minimize the formation of TTHM while ensuring we maintain an adequate level of disinfectant.
- We are taking additional steps to reduce the formation of TTHM by increasing our flushing in the distribution system and collecting our regular samples along with collecting a sample from our interconnection with Passaic Valley. We have already seen improvements in the last two quarters of our flushing efforts and will continue to regularly flush the distribution system to keep our system in compliance.
- We anticipate returning to compliance on 3/31/2024. For more information, please contact the Superintendent of Public Works at 973-857-4806. **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 Verona Water Department PWSID# NJ 0720001
Date distributed: 3/29/2024

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 August 22, 2023, 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 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:

- A contract for the remediation of the Linn Drive Well has been awarded. Work is expected to begin Spring, 2024 and completion is anticipated by November 1, 2024.
- The Fairview Avenue Well remediation Design Drawings & Specifications are 90% complete and will be publicly bid by summer, 2024.

For more information, please contact the Superintendent of Public Works at 973-857-4806. 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: 3/29/2024.