City of Garfield
New Jersey

May 6, 2022

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

This is a Continuation Notification for the Garfield Water Department that it has High Levels of Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) above the Drinking Water Standards. This Notice will continue to be sent out every three months until Garfield Water Department meets compliance with the New Jersey drinking water standards.

Our water system recently violated two New Jersey drinking water standards 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.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. On June 8, 2021, the City received a notice stating that the Running Annual Average (RAA) for PFOS and PFOA has exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). **The 3rd quarter of 2021, 4th quarter of 2021, 1st quarter of 2022 and now the 2nd quarter testing results continue to exceed the RAA for PFOS AND PFOA at the Elmwood Park Treatment Plant.**

The New Jersey standard for PFOA is 14 ng/L and is based on a RAA, in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged. The New Jersey standard for PFOS is 13 ng/L and is based on a RAA, in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged. Our water system's RAA is below:

PFOA

Reporting Period	Quarterly Value (ng/L)	RAA
2nd Quarter 2022	18.9	32.78
1st Quarter 2022	45.3	37.38
4th Quarter 2021	31.0	34.6
3rd Quarter 2021	35.9	26.8
2nd Quarter 2021	37.3	

PFOS

Reporting Period	Quarterly Value (ng/L)	RAA
2nd Quarter 2022	17.0	22.55
1st Quarter 2022	27.3	25.18
4th Quarter 2021	19.1	25.9
3rd Quarter 2021	26.8	21.1
2nd Quarter 2021	27.5	

In accordance with Public Notification Regulations(40 CFR 141.203) our water system must repeat distribution of this notice within every three months until the Elmwood Park Wellfield (TP003015) comes into compliance.

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.

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 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.*

**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 more information refer to
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 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 are 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 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 and PFOA. For more specific information regarding the effectiveness of home water filters for reducing PFOS and PFOA, visit the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) International website, http://www.nsf.org/.
- Boiling your water will not remove PFOA and PFOS.

What is being done?

The Garfield Water Department relies on water supply wells to provide water to our system, which is supplemented by water purchased from the Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC). These supply wells are located in the Borough of Elmwood Park and Garfield and are owned, operated and maintained by the City of Garfield Water Department. The exceedances for PFOA and PFOS are from analytical data representative of the City of Garfield's wells that are located in Elmwood Park. **Our engineering plans have been approved by the NJDEP and the final specs are being completed so we will be able to bid the upgrade project. We have also pre-ordered the units at a cost of 1.3 million dollars and we anticipate having water treatment facilities installed and operational at the facility in 2022.**

For more information, please contact the City of Garfield Water Department at 973-546-2200 Ext #4222.

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.

State Water System ID#: NJ0221001 Date distributed: **May 6, 2022**