

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Willingboro MUA Previously Found Levels of Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) Above A Drinking Water Standard in November 2021

As you know, in the last quarter of 2021 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 have done and are continuing to do to correct this situation. Willingboro MUA has not produced water from Well 5A since November 2021. We are currently supplying water from our remaining treatment plants that comply with all state and federal drinking water standards. Specifically, Willingboro MUA has taken the temporary measure of removing our contaminated well 5A from service. A permanent treatment solution for Well 5A utilizing the latest technology available has been constructed. We plan on placing Well 5A into operation on March 12, 2024.

You were previously notified of the PFOS maximum contaminant level (MCL) violation in public notice(s) issued on December 8, 2021, March 8, 2022, and March 8, 2023. Per the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, we will continue to provide you with an updated public notice on our website: www.wmua.info/public-notice/ every 3 months until we complete all approved remedial measures and return to compliance with the MCL. The most recent public notice website update regarding this matter was posted on December 8, 2023.

We routinely monitor for the presence of federal and state regulated drinking water contaminants. New Jersey adopted a standard, or MCL, for PFOS in 2020 and monitoring began in 2021. The MCL for PFOS is 0.013 parts per billion (ppb) and is based on a running annual average (RAA), in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged.

On November 8, 2021, we received notice that the samples collected during the four quarters of 2021 showed that our system exceeded the PFOS MCL. The RAA for PFOS based on samples collected over the year 2021 was 0.0155 µg/L.

Treatment Plant	Sample date	PFOS result (µg/L)	Sampling Frequency
TP002006 (Well 1)	7/5/23	0.0048	1 sample per year
TP003010 (Well 6)	1/23/24	<0.002	1 sample per year
TP001002 (Wells 9, 10, 11)	1/23/24	0.0087	1 sample per quarter

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.

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 PFOS is elevated in drinking water.
- Pregnant, nursing, and women considering having children may choose to use bottled water or a home water filter designed to remove PFOS 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. 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 PFOS, visit the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) International website, <http://www.nsf.org/>. [NSF does not certify reduction of PFOS to the NJ MCL for PFOS.]
- Boiling your water will not remove PFOS.

For more information, see <https://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/pfas/>.

What is being done?

Willingboro MUA has taken the temporary measure of removing our contaminated well 5A from service.

The Well 5A PFOS removal facility, located at 23 Baldwin Lane, received short-term and long-term funding for the \$7 million project through the New Jersey Water Bank. The WMUA also received a \$3.4 million federal STAG grant, as well as \$1 million in principal forgiveness through the New Jersey DEP State Revolving Fund.

Well 5A includes a 200 hp well pump, radium treatment, air stripping, plus chemical feed processes for chlorine, fluoride, and lime injection. Finally, a 125 hp high service pump provides system pressure. The project includes a new 2,800-square-foot building that houses four 12-foot diameter Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) vessels, plus the associated piping, valves, and instrumentation; along with a new control panel and backup generator.

Willingboro MUA is proud to announce that its Well 5A PFOS removal facility is going live and will flow into the distribution system on March 12, 2024.

For more information, please contact James J. Mackie, Executive Director at 609-781-8657, jmackie@wmua.info, or 433 JFK Way, Willingboro, NJ 08046.

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 Willingboro MUA State Water System ID#: NJ0338001.
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