



BOROUGH of ROSELAND

300 Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ 07068

www.roselandnj.org

MAYOR **JAMES R. SPANGO**

Christopher Critchett

Superintendent of the Department of Public Works

Telephone: (973) 226-6565

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8/30/2024

The Roseland Water Department (PWSID # NJ0718001) received the attached notification from the Essex Fells Water Department (PWSID# NJ0706001) on 8/21/2024 that the Essex Fells Water Department had levels of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) above drinking water standards. Essex Fells also incurred a one-year violation because their permanent treatment facility was not in operation within one year after the date of their initial PFOA standard exceedance. Roseland Water Department purchases most of its water supply, fully treated, from the Essex Fells Water Department.

Pursuant to 40 CFR 141.201(c) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, each public water system must provide public notice to persons served by the water system, in accordance with this subpart. Public water systems that sell (Essex Fells) or otherwise provide drinking water to other public water systems (i.e., Roseland, a consecutive system) are required to give public notice to the owner or operator of the consecutive system; the consecutive system is responsible for providing public notice to the persons it serves.

Attached, please find the public notice provided to Roseland Water Department by Essex Fells Water Department. The attached notice provides significant updates as to permanent treatment of the PFOA. On 7/15/2024, Essex Fells has placed permanent treatment online to treat the water delivered by Essex Fells to Roseland which has brought the levels of PFOA below the standard at non-detectable levels.

Corrective actions being done by Roseland Water Department: Roseland will continue to monitor the response by Essex Fells to its users and the NJDEP to provide a safe reliable water supply and keep the residents of Roseland informed.

For more information, please contact Chris Critchett at 973-226-6565 or at 300 Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ 07068 or emailing him at ccritchett@roselandnj.org.

* 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 Roseland Water Department, State Water System ID#: PWSID NJ0718001
Date Distributed: August 30, 2024*



BOROUGH OF ESSEX FELLS
255 ROSELAND AVENUE
ESSEX FELLS, NJ 07021
(973) 226-3400 FAX (973) 228-4439

August 21, 2024

Dear Residents and Water Customers,

I am pleased to report that, as of July 16, 2024, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) is no longer detectable in the water that the Essex Fells Water System is supplying to customers in Essex Fells, Caldwell, North Caldwell and Roseland.

As you know from prior updates, in the last several years we have kept PFOA levels low, and within the NJ standard of 14 parts per trillion, by taking various temporary measures. At the same time, we have been actively pursuing our long-term goal of reducing levels of PFOA and other types of polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to zero or as close to zero as current technology allows.

We have now achieved that goal in our active water supply, covering all 13 of the groundwater wells that we are currently using. To our knowledge, we are the first community water system in New Jersey to complete improvements on this scale to comprehensively remove PFOA contaminants to non-detectable levels. This also puts us well ahead of the new national standards for PFOA (4 parts per trillion) and 5 other types of PFAS, which were adopted in April 2024 but will not be fully effective until 5 years from now.

How has this been accomplished? What additional work is being done?

On July 15, 2024, we commenced operations at a new \$8.5 million PFOA treatment facility that we constructed at our main water treatment plant, which treats 13 of our water system's 16 groundwater wells. Test results confirm that PFOA and other types of PFAS are not detectable in the water leaving the plant.

On June 17, 2024, we awarded a contract for the construction of our second permanent PFOA treatment system, which will be installed at a water treatment plant that treats water from 2 wells. These wells are currently offline, not delivering water to the public. Thus, they have no current impact on water quality. However, installing permanent PFOA treatment will allow us to bring these 2 wells back online, which will increase our system's capacity while maintaining the water quality. We expect to complete this project by mid-2025.

Our third and final permanent PFOA facility will be constructed at a water treatment plant that treats 1 groundwater well. This well is currently offline. Design plans were filed with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection in June 2023. We hope to receive final approvals from the NJDEP and the NJ Water Bank in the next month or two, at which point we will advertise the project for bids. We expect to complete construction and return the well to service by the end of 2025. At that point, our water system will be back at full capacity, delivering water from 16 groundwater wells, with no detectable levels of PFOA.

Thank you for your patience as we complete these improvements.

Where You Can Find More Information

For more information, please see the August 21, 2024 regulatory notice issued by the Essex Fells Water Department, a copy of which is enclosed. The Water Department must distribute regulatory notices until permanent PFOA treatment systems are operating at all three of our treatment plants, including the two we are not currently using. These updates are meant to keep you informed about your drinking water and the capital improvements we are making in response to new regulations and the September 2021 PFOA exceedance previously reported to you.

Copies of prior Water Department updates and information on PFOA from the NJ Department of Health and the United States Environmental Protection Agency are available on the Borough's website (<https://www.essexfellsboro.com/pages/pfoa>).

Sincerely,

Edward A. Davis
Mayor
Borough of Essex Fells

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
ESSEX FELLS WATER SYSTEM

Update Regarding the Essex Fells Water System's Violation of the New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Act; Permanent Treatment for Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) installed at TP001001 as of July 15, 2024 and PFOA is Non-Detectable in the Water Being Supplied

August 21, 2024

As you know, in the third quarter of 2021 our water system violated the New Jersey maximum contaminant level (MCL) for PFOA at three of our treatment plants – TP001001, TP002015, and TP003020. Additionally, as permanent PFOA was not completed at these treatment plants on or before August 17, 2022, our water system incurred an additional violation of the New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Act. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we have already done and are doing to correct this situation. To that end, the Essex Fells Water System has constructed and installed a permanent treatment facility at our main water treatment plant, TP001001, for removal of PFOA and other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The new facility commenced operations on July 15, 2024, and is currently supplying water with PFOA concentrations at non-detectable levels.

With the commencement of permanent PFAS treatment at TP001001, the Essex Fells Water System has completed its planned remedial actions for PFOA at TP001001. TP001001 treats water from 13 of our 16 groundwater wells and is the only treatment plant currently delivering water to our customers. This important step means that the water being supplied to our customers now measures non-detectable levels of PFOA and sets up our system to resolve the MCL and one-year violations with respect to TP001001. Once we demonstrate, through analytical data, that the newly installed PFAS treatment at TP001001 maintains PFOA concentrations below the New Jersey MCL for two straight calendar quarters the MCL violation and one-year violation will be fully resolved.

Treatment plants TP003020 and TP002015, which together cover our remaining 3 wells, were shut down in September 2021 and remain offline, not delivering water to the public. Because these treatment plants remain offline, and thus no current PFOA results are available, the 2021 PFOA MCL violations will remain open until we complete our planned installation of permanent PFAS treatment systems at those locations. We expect that work to be completed in 2025. See "What is being done?" below for more information.

You were previously notified of the PFOA MCL violations in public notices issued every three months beginning September 16, 2021, with the most recent issued on April 18, 2024. Per the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, we will continue to provide you with an updated public notice periodically until we complete all approved remedial measures and return our entire system to compliance with all State and Federal MCLs. The most recent public notice and updates regarding this matter are available at <https://www.essexfellsboro.com/pages/PFOA>.

The table below summarizes (1) the second and third quarter 2024 PFOA values based on our most recent compliance sampling, (2) the running annual average based on samples taken over the past 4 quarters that the treatment plants were in operation and (3) the current status of each treatment plant and each permanent treatment project.

For our main water treatment plant (TP001001), two test results are listed in the table. One sample was taken on June 21, 2024, *before* our permanent PFAS treatment facility began operating, and the results demonstrate that the water being distributed by TP001001 in June 2024 contained detectable levels of PFOA below New Jersey's PFOA MCL. The second sample was taken on July 16, 2024, *after* our permanent PFAS treatment facility commenced operations, and the results confirm that PFOA is not detectable in the water currently being distributed.

PFOA levels for treatment plants TP003020 and TP002015 are shown as "N/A" in the table below because those plants are presently offline, not delivering water to the public and no current PFOA results are available. TP003020 and TP002015 remain included in the table because we are required to keep you informed of the status of any treatment plant with a PFOA MCL violation, even if it has been shut off and is no longer delivering water.

Treatment Plant (TP)	Most Recent Sample Collection Date	Second and Third Quarter 2024 PFOA Values	Running Annual Average	Current Status of Treatment Plants
TP001001	7-16-2024 6-21-2024	0.00 µg/L 0.0115 µg/L	0.00740µg/L 0.00964 µg/L	Online and in service. Permanent PFOA treatment facility in operation as of 7-15-2024 for 13 wells.
TP003020	N/A	N/A	N/A	Offline as of 9-24-2021. A contract for the construction of a PFOA treatment system at this treatment plant, which treats 2 wells, was awarded on 6-17-24. Subject to supply chain contingencies, the new facility is expected to be completed by mid- 2025, at which point this treatment plant and the 2 wells will be returned to service.
TP002015	N/A	N/A	N/A	Offline as of 9-24-2021. Design plans for the installation of a PFOA treatment system at this treatment plant, which treats 1 well, were submitted to the NJDEP in June 2023 and are awaiting final approvals. Subject to third party approvals, public contract bidding and supply chain contingencies, we hope to complete construction in 2025, at which point this treatment plant and the applicable well will be returned to service.

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 grease proof 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?

TP002015 and TP003020 are not currently in use, and the water being provided to consumers by TP001001 has non-detectable levels of PFOA. We will directly notify customers in writing prior to any planned use of TP002015 or TP003020 or will directly notify consumers within 24 hours of any emergency use of TP002015 or TP003020. Such notification will come through the water system's website, social media, and other methods. Anyone concerned about their health should consult with their personal healthcare provider.

For more information on the New Jersey state standards, see <https://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/pdf/pfoa-pfos-faq.pdf> or <https://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/pfas/>.

For additional information regarding PFOA from the federal government, including fact sheets and answers to frequently asked questions, please refer to the following resources from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>.

What is being done?

As indicated above, Essex Fells has constructed a new permanent PFOA treatment facility for 13 wells at TP001001 and has shut down its other two treatment plants, TP003020 and TP002015.

With the commencement of permanent PFAS treatment, the Essex Fells Water System has completed its remediation of the 2021 MCL exceedance for PFOA at TP001001, which treats water from 13 of our 16 wells. This important step has also resolved the one-year violation that we received for not completing the permanent treatment facility at TP001001 within one year after the initial MCL exceedance.

A contract for the construction of a PFOA treatment system that will remove PFOA on a permanent basis at TP003020, which treats two (2) wells, was awarded on June 17, 2024. Subject to supply chain contingencies, the new facility is expected to be completed by mid- 2025, at which point this treatment plant and the two (2) wells will be returned to service.

Design plans for the installation of a PFOA treatment system at TP002015, which treats the water from one well, were submitted to the NJDEP in June 2023 and are awaiting final approvals. Subject to third party approvals, public contract bidding and supply chain contingencies, we hope to complete construction in 2025, at which point this treatment plant and the applicable well will be returned to service.

To view all the drinking water quality data collected by Essex Fells Water Department visit https://www9.state.nj.us/DEP_WaterWatch_public/index.jsp and enter NJ0706001 for the PWSID.

For more information, please contact William Ryden at 973-650-1029 or wryden@anderson-denzler.com. You may also contact the Essex Fells Water Department by mail at 318 Runnymede Road, Essex Fells, NJ 07021.

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 Essex Fells Water Department, Water System ID#: NJ0706001.

Date distributed: August 21, 2024