



PASSAIC VALLEY WATER COMMISSION
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC)- Postbrook System Has Levels of Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) Above A Drinking Water Standard

This is an update to the previous notice that our water system recently violated a New Jersey drinking water MCL requirement. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we have done and are doing to correct this situation.

New Jersey adopted a standard, or maximum contaminant level (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 12/19/2022, we received notice that the samples collected on 12/7/2022 showed non-detection results. However, our system still exceeds the PFOS MCL calculated by the RAA. The RAA for PFOS based on samples collected over the last year is 0.030 ppb.

PVWC has installed a treatment system composed of resin ion exchange to remove PFOS. The system went into operation on August 17, 2022. **The treatment system is working and successfully removing PFOS from your drinking water. The water is currently below detectable limits and is under the MCL.** The most recent sampling results shows a PFOS result of 0.038 ppb before treatment (greater than the MCL 0.013 ppb). The PFOS result after treatment is less than 0.0019 ppb (also referenced as non-detect) which is below the MCL of 0.013 ppb. PVWC is continuing paperwork to solidify permits to define the ion exchange treatment system as permanent.

You were previously notified of the PFOS MCL violation at Nosenzo Pond Pump Station (TP007017) in public notices issued on 06/29/2021, 08/25/2021, 11/19/2021, 02/15/2022, 05/11/2022, 08/11/2022, & 10/7/2022. This will be the only physical mailing you will receive for 2023 directly related to this topic. Regularly quarterly updates will be provided and posted to our website. You can find the most recent public notice, past notifications and future updates regarding this matter on our website at the following link: <https://www.pvwc.com/water-quality/pfos/>) To continue receiving the updates with a physical mailing, please email your name and address to NosenzoPFOS@pvwc.com.

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 and <https://www.nj.gov/dep/pfas/index.html>.

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 than other individuals 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 is 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.
- Other people may also choose to use bottled water for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOS or use a home water filter that is certified to reduce levels of PFOS. Home water treatment devices are available that can reduce levels of PFOS. 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/>.
- Boiling your water will not remove PFOS.

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

For more information, please contact PVWC Customer Service at 973-340-4300 or customerservice@pvwc.com.

**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 PVWC-Postbrook: PWSID #: NJ1615008.

Date distributed: 1/7/2023

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