



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The North Caldwell water system has levels of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) above a drinking water standard.

North Caldwell Water Department is required, as a purchaser of water from Essex Fells, to provide notice that Essex Fells violated a New Jersey drinking water standard. 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.

Essex Fells and North Caldwell Water Departments routinely monitor each of our systems for the presence of federal and state regulated drinking water contaminants. New Jersey adopted a maximum contaminant level (MCL), for PFOA in 2020 and monitoring began in 2021. The MCL for PFOA is 0.014 micrograms per liter (µg/L) (or 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.

Please be reminded that the North Caldwell water system buys and blends water from the Passaic Valley Water Commission and the Essex Fells water system. Passaic Valley is compliant with all PFOA standards. Two treatment plans owned by Essex Fells (TP002015 and TP003020) remain above the standard but are offline, not delivering water to the public. Currently, Essex Fells is operating their system with only one treatment plant (TP001001). PFOA is sampled quarterly at TP001001 and the most recent sample results are currently below the drinking water standard.

Since the time of the prior quarterly notice to you dated April 8, 2022 regarding PFOA levels in our water system, Essex Fells has installed and implemented a temporary treatment facility for two (2) of their wells at TP001001 beginning May 19, 2022.

On June 8, 2022 Essex Fells received results for a sample collected on June 3, 2022 showing that the water leaving the treatment plant in use does not exceed the PFOA MCL. The second quarter result was 0.00955 µg/L (9.55 parts per trillion). The RAA for PFOA based on samples collected over the last year is now 0.013 µg/L (13 parts per trillion).

The second quarter 2022 PFOA value, the RAA based on samples collected during the past four quarters, and the current status of each treatment plant in Essex Fells are summarized in the table below.

Essex Fells Treatment Plant (TP)	Most Recent Sample Collection Date	Second Quarter 2022 PFOA Value	Running Annual Average	Current Status of TPs
TP001001	6-03-2022	0.00955 µg/L	0.013 µg/L	Online and in service and undergoing treatment design. Temporary treatment in operation as of 5-19-22.
TP003020	7-21-2021	n/a	0.022 µg/L	Offline as of 9-24-2021 and undergoing treatment design.
TP002015	7-21-2021	n/a	0.016 µg/L	Offline as of 9-24-2021 and undergoing treatment design.

We are required to keep you informed of the status of any treatment plant with a PFOA MCL violation even if it is in Essex Fells or if it has been shut off and is no longer delivering water, as the violation still persists. That is why TP003020 and TP002015 are listed in the above table, even though they are presently offline.

Pursuant to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, Public Notification Rule, we must re-issue a notice to you quarterly until Essex Fells has taken permanent remedial action at all facilities and have complied with the MCL.

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.

- For additional information regarding PFOA, including fact sheets and answers to frequently asked questions, please refer to the following resources from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and Essex Fells: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/supporting-documents-drinking-waterhealth-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>
- www.essexfellsboro.com/pages/pfoa

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 PFOA 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 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. 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/>.
- Boiling your water will not remove PFOA.

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

What is being done?

As indicated above, Essex Fells has implemented a temporary treatment facility for two (2) of their wells at TP001001 and has shut down the other two treatment plants (TP002015 and TP003020). Essex Fells has also adjusted operational protocols, including the manner in which they blend their water sources that remain in service, in order to reduce the overall level of PFOA being delivered to the Borough of North Caldwell. As a result of these steps, Essex Fells is currently supplying water to North Caldwell that is currently below the 0.014 µg/L MCL for PFOA and meets all other water quality standards.

Additionally, the Borough of Essex Fells has engaged the services of a professional engineering firm to design PFAS treatment facilities that will remove the PFOA contaminants in their water supply on a permanent basis. They are in the process of finalizing the project details, including the cost, with the engineers, contractors, and other professionals. They anticipate these permanent treatment facilities for 13 of their 16 wells will be completed by April 2023.

To view all the drinking water quality data collected by the Essex Fells visit https://www9.state.nj.us/DEP_WaterWatch_public/index.jsp and enter NJ0706001 for the PWSID. To view the drinking water quality data collected by the Borough of North Caldwell, enter NJ0715001 for the PWSID. Please note that North Caldwell, as a purchaser of water, is not required to monitor for PFAS.

For more information, please contact Kevin O'Sullivan at 973-228-6412 or kosullivan@northcaldwell.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 North Caldwell Water Depart., Water System ID#: NJ0715001.

Date distributed: July 8, 2022