

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### National Park Water Department has levels of Perfluorononanoic Acid (PFNA) above drinking water standards and failed to take action to bring our water into compliance with the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) within one year

Our water system recently 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 did/are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. The New Jersey standard for **PFNA** is 0.013 µg/L and is based on a running annual average (RAA). On January 20th, 2022, we received notice that the RAA based upon samples collected in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2021, and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2022 showed that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for PFNA. The current RAA for PFNA is 0.0208 µg/L which is above the MCL.

<u>Reporting Period</u>	<u>Quarterly Value (ug/L)</u>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2021</b>	<b>.0206</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2021</b>	<b>.0227</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2021</b>	<b>.0191</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2022</b>	<b>.0211</b>
<b>Running Annual Average</b>	<b>.0208</b>

#### What is PFNA?

Perfluorononanoic acid (**PFNA**) 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. PFNA has been historically used as a processing aid in the manufacturing of high-performance plastics that are resistant to harsh chemicals and high temperatures. Major sources of **PFNA** in drinking water include **discharge from industrial facilities** where it was made or used. Although the use of PFNA 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 notification mean?

*Recent studies are showing that some people who drink water containing PFAS chemicals in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their immune system, kidney, liver, or endocrine system. For females, drinking water containing PFAS in excess of the MCL over many years 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 can persist through childhood.*

### UPDATED January 2022!!!

#### What should I do? The New Jersey DEP Recommends:

- Use bottled water or purchase a household filter designed to remove PFAS chemicals based upon your Doctor's recommendations.
- If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

#### **Exposure to PFAS:**

- PFAS chemicals (such as PFOA, PFOS, and **PFNA**) dissolve in water, making them difficult to remove.
- Boiling water will not remove PFAS chemicals.
- Other sources of PFAS chemical exposure include food, food packaging, consumer products, house dust, indoor and outdoor air, and at workplaces where PFAS chemicals are used or made.
- Exposure to PFAS in drinking water is primarily from ingestion. **Exposure through other household uses of water such as showering, bathing, laundry, dishwashing, and rinsing produce is NOT significant.**

#### **Health Effects of PFAS Chemicals (as of January 2022):**

- PFOA (largest number of available studies)
  - Increase in serum cholesterol, some liver enzymes, and uric acid levels; decreased antibody response following vaccination
- PFOS
  - Increase in serum cholesterol and uric acid levels; decreased antibody response following vaccination
- **PFNA** (fewer studies- largely from the general population)
  - Increases in cholesterol and some liver enzymes

#### **PFAS Chemicals and Cancer Studies:**

- PFOA and PFOS caused tumors in rodents.
  - **PFNA** has not been tested for this effect.

#### **What is being done?**

- We have secured a \$1million grant through the USDA to go towards upgrading our water treatment facility equipment to Granular Activated Carbon Filtration, which will remove the PFNA chemical and address the MCL exceedance.
- The construction permit was submitted to the NJDEP on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020, and the application was deemed complete in late November, 2020.
- The Borough of National Park received approval from the NJDEP to move forward with the project and go out to bid in June, 2021.
- Bids were received and opened on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and contract was awarded to Quad Construction on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- The project construction was estimated to begin in late October, 2021, but due to manufacturing and supply issues, the start of construction has been delayed and projected to start in March, 2022. Estimated time of completion is September, 2022.

We will continue to issue a public notice informing you of our progress every 3 months.

For more information refer to: [https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas\\_drinking%20water.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_drinking%20water.pdf)

Or please contact Steven Clark, Water/Sewer Superintendent at 856-845-3891 or [sclark@nationalparknj.com](mailto:sclark@nationalparknj.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 National Park Water Department. State Water System ID#: NJ0812001

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