



**433 JOHN F. KENNEDY WAY
WILLINGBORO, NEW JERSEY 08046-2119
WMUA.INFO
Telephone (609) 877-2900**

Dear Customers,

Customers of the WMUA were recently notified via a standardized New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) notification letter that our water system exceeded a New Jersey drinking water standard. We understand that hearing this kind of news is concerning for everyone in our community who want to ensure that their families are safe. We share these concerns.

As public servants who work, live, and have families here in Willingboro, it is our obligation to ensure that the water you receive at your homes, schools, and businesses is safe and reliable. We have heard your legitimate questions and concerns, either directly or indirectly, regarding public notifications surrounding this matter. We hope the following will add some context and help to answer your questions regarding the violation. This letter is the beginning of that process. We have also added a Frequently Asked Questions section to our website, which addresses the most common questions we are receiving to date.

First, it may be helpful to review how the WMUA delivers water to your home. The WMUA system consists of six wells,(1, 5A, 6, 9,10, and 11), which draw water from the Middle Potomac-Raritan-Magothy Aquifer, and the Lower Potomac-Raritan-Magothy Aquifer. Water from Wells 9, 10, and 11 is first pumped to our main treatment plant where the comingled water from these three wells is filtered, processed, and disinfected. Depending on various factors, the treated water is then pumped directly to customers, or stored in our underground storage tank, or one of two water towers the WMUA maintains. Wells 1, 5A, and 6 each have their own treatment facility located on their specific site which then delivers treated water in the same manner. The combination and sequencing of Well operation is determined by the WMUA staff.

In accordance with NJDEP rules and regulations, we routinely test our water supply for 31 compounds and contaminants, and yearly water quality reports can be found on the WMUA website at <http://wmua.info/>. Testing is conducted both in-house by our WMUA certified lab, and by our outside vendor, Garden State Labs. Testing and reporting intervals, specified by the NJDEP, vary from weekly, to monthly, to quarterly depending on the particular item being tested for. The WMUA is in full compliance with these reporting requirements.



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Beginning June 1, 2020, the NJDEP established a new Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) of .013 micrograms per liter, which is based on a four-quarter Running Annual Average (RAA). This is significantly lower than the current MCL recommended by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of .070 micrograms per liter. Because the EPA's Health Advisory regarding PFOS is non-enforceable and non-regulatory, each state is free to set its own standards and regulations which has led to a wide variance in MCL standards nationally. New Jersey's MCL is among the most stringent in the country.

In an effort to be proactive, the WMUA initiated PFOS sampling in the first quarter of 2020 prior to the new standards going into effect and prior to the requirement to test beginning in 2021. The WMUA found that Wells 5A and 11 were exhibiting levels slightly above what the anticipated new NJDEP standards were likely to be. Although Well 11 exhibited elevated levels, Wells 9 and 10 both exhibited low levels. Because the water from Wells 9, 10, and 11 are comingled and treated before entering the water supply system, the PFOS' level of comingled water from the main treatment plant remained below the anticipated standard and remains below the actual MCL today.

However, because water from Well 5A discharges directly into the distribution system without commingling with water from any of the other supply wells, the WMUA immediately began evaluating treatment options for Well 5A and instituted a plan to implement a selected treatment technology should the findings persist. Design of an Activated Carbon PFOS treatment system began on September 17, 2020, financing was secured, a construction permit to install the system was issued by the NJDEP on July 4, 2021, and the final design was completed on August 21, 2021.

As the design process was underway, testing continued throughout 2021. On November 8, the WMUA was notified by the NJDEP of an RAA PFOS violation during the 4th quarter of 2021 due to results from Well 5A. The findings showed an RAA of .0155 or .0025 micrograms per liter above the MCL for the reporting period. In accordance with NJDEP Tier 2 public notification regulations, the WMUA contacted the DEP within 48 hours of the violation notification, began working with them on the public notification process, and took Well 5A out of service.

It is important to remember that the violation was not caused by a change in your water quality. It is the result of a significant tightening of the MCL standard by the NJDEP. Also, to put the risk in perspective, Maximum Contaminant Levels, as outlined in the



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1984 Amendment to the New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Act, are based on an average person having a one in one million chance of experiencing adverse effects from drinking water above the MCL if it is consumed at that level constantly over a lifetime.

In addition to treating Well 5A, the WMUA will also work with the NJDEP to identify potential sources of PFOS contamination and responsible parties. We will also be pressing our legislative representatives to help ensure that the WMUA receives its fair share of the \$168 million in funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law New Jersey is scheduled to receive which includes money to address forever chemicals such as PFOS. You can help in this effort by signing a copy of the Infrastructure Funding Request Letter, which is available on the WMUA website and forwarding it to the local officials to whom the letter is addressed.

We currently anticipate the construction of the Well 5A treatment system to be completed in the second quarter of 2023. **In the meantime, there is nothing you need to do, the water currently being delivered to your home meets or exceeds all federal and state regulatory standards and is safe for all uses.** However, if you still have specific health concerns or questions, please consult your doctor. For more information about the potential impacts of PFOS in drinking water, you can also visit https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_drinking%20water.pdf.

We take our role as protectors of public health seriously, and firmly believe we must continuously work to earn the trust and confidence of our customers. Moving forward, the WMUA will work to develop new communication tools and provide broader information through our meeting minutes so that residents who are unable to attend public meetings can stay up to date by accessing them, or zoom recordings, through our website. Above all, we will continue to do all that we can to deliver safe and potable water supply to the homes, schools, and businesses we serve.