# IMPORTANT UPDATE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## Willingboro MUA had Levels of Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) Above A Drinking Water Standard

As you know, in the last quarter of 2021 our water system violated a New Jersey drinking water standard, and as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we have already done and are continuing to do to correct this situation. **WMUA is no longer producing water from the Well that was testing above the new state PFOS standard. We are currently supplying water from our remaining treatment plants that comply with all state and federal drinking water standards.**

We routinely monitor for the presence of federal and state regulated drinking water contaminants. 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 micrograms per liter (µg/L) and is based on a running annual average (RAA), in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged. On November 8, 2021, we received notice that the samples collected during the four quarters of 2021 showed that our system exceeded the PFOS MCL. The RAA for PFOS based on samples collected over the last year is 0.0155 µg/L. We issued a public notice advising of this exceedance on December 8, 2021.

**What is being done?**
Willingboro MUA has taken the temporary measure of removing our drinking water source (i.e., our Well 5A exceeding the PFOS MCL from use on November 30, 2021) until permanent actions have been taken to deliver water from this source that is below the PFOS MCL. We are currently supplying our customers with water from our three treatment plants which service the remaining five Wells in our system, (Wells 1, 6, and a combined treatment plant for Wells 9, 10, and 11 respectively), These three treatment plants produce water that is below the PFOS MCL. Updates will continue to be provided on our website every three months at www.wmua.info. We expect these updates to be posted on or about June 8, September 8, and December 8 of 2022.

Further, a permanent treatment solution for Well 5A utilizing the latest technology available has been designed and awaiting the approval to bid from the NJDEP. We are currently completing final preparations to issue a public bid request so that the work can begin on this project. Based on normal timelines for construction of similar Activated Carbon Treatment Systems, we anticipate substantial completion in the second quarter of 2023.

For more information, please contact Emmanuel Stuppard, Director of Operations and Maintenance at 609-304-5487, estuppard@wmua.info, or 433 JFK Way, Willingboro, NJ 08046.

**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.

**What should I do?**
While Well 5A is currently not in use we are still required to issue public notice and notify consumers of steps they can take to reduce their exposure. As previously indicated, we will directly notify customers in writing prior to any planned use or within 24 hours of an emergency use of the source through the water system's website, social media, and other methods.

- 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 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/pdf/pfoa-pfos-faq.pdf.

**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 Willingboro MUA State Water System ID#: NJ0338001.
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