

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Kevin Winn, P.E. Commissioner
Michael Rosafort, Road Foreman



Robert Mascianica, Deputy Commissioner
Greg Repp, Water Foreman

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
PFOA/PFOS MCL EXCEEDANCE AT THE FARMS WATER DISTRICT**

Why are you receiving this notice/information?

You are receiving this notice because testing of our public water system found the chemicals perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) in your drinking water at 14.8 and 10.9 ppt, respectively in Well 2. This is above New York State's maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 ppt for PFOA and PFOS in public drinking water systems. The MCL is set well below levels known or estimated to cause health effects. Consuming drinking water with PFOA and PFOS at or somewhat above the MCL does not pose a significant health risk. Your water continues to be acceptable for all uses. The Farms Water District is working on a strict timetable to reduce levels below the MCL.

What are the health effects of PFOA and PFOS?

The available information on the health effects associated with PFOA and PFOS, like many chemicals, comes from studies of high-level exposure in animals or humans. Less is known about the chances of health effects occurring from lower levels of exposure, such as those that might occur in drinking water. As a result, finding lower levels of chemicals in drinking water prompts water suppliers and regulators to take precautions that include notifying consumers and steps to reduce exposure.

PFOA and PFOS have caused a wide range of health effects when studied in animals that were exposed to high levels. Additional studies of high-level exposures of PFOA and PFOS in people provide evidence that some of the health effects seen in animals may also occur in humans. The most consistent findings in animals were effects on the liver and immune system and impaired fetal growth and development. The United States Environmental Protection Agency considers PFOA and PFOS as having suggestive evidence for causing cancer based on studies of animals exposed to high levels of this chemical over their entire lifetimes.

At the level of PFOA and PFOS detected in your water, exposure from drinking water and food preparation is well below PFOA and PFOS exposures associated with health effects.

What is New York State doing about PFOA and PFOS in public drinking water?

The New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) has adopted a drinking water regulation that requires all public water systems to test for PFOA and PFOS. If found above the MCL of 10 ppt, the

water supplier must take steps to lower the level to meet the standard. Exceedances of the MCL signal that steps should be taken by the water system to reduce contaminant levels.

What is being done to meet the MCL?

The Farms Water District is working with the Westchester County Department of Health on a compliance schedule that includes steps to reduce levels of PFOA and PFOS. The system has two wells. The levels in Well 1 have been below the MCLs. Well 2 is our backup well, and system demand can be met using only Well 1. Well 2 was utilized for only 16 days in the last 12 months. Steps being considered include developing new source of supply wells to replace Well 2, or installing treatment to remove PFOA and PFOS. Additional information will be shared as further testing and progress occurs. This process is similar for any chemical detected in public drinking water that requires mitigation due to exceedance of an MCL. The compliance timetable will ensure that your drinking water will meet the MCL as rapidly as possible. In the meantime, the District will only utilize Well 2 when required for regulatory sampling or if Well 1 is out of service due to equipment issues, which is quite infrequent.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact the Bedford DPW Water Division at 916-666-7855, water@bedfordny.gov, or 425 Cherry Street Bedford Hills NY 10507. You can also contact the Westchester County Department of Health at (914) 864-7332.

If you have additional questions about these contaminants and your health, talk to your health care provider who is most familiar with your health history and can provide advice and assistance about understanding how drinking water may affect your personal health.

Public Water System ID# 5903418

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