

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Ridgewood Water Has Levels of Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) Above a Drinking Water Standard

Ridgewood Water Did Not Bring Our Water into Compliance with PFOA and PFOS Drinking Water Standards Within One Year; However, Ridgewood Water is Taking Action to Implement System-Wide Treatment

As our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation. For more information, please contact Customer Service at (201) 670-5520 or cswater@ridgewoodnj.net.

You were previously notified that our water system is in violation of the New Jersey drinking water PFOA and PFOS standards or maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) at the points of entry listed on page four of this public notice. The most recent public notice and update regarding this matter are also available at <https://water.ridgewoodnj.net/pfas-resources/>. We will continue to provide you with an updated public notice every 3 months until we complete all approved remedial measures and return to compliance with the PFOA and PFOS MCLs.

During the fourth quarter 2021 sampling period ending on December 31, 2021, we initially exceeded the MCLs for PFOA and PFOS at eighteen (18) points of entry. Our water system is required to take any action necessary to bring the water into compliance with the applicable MCL within one-year from the initial violation. Our water system did not remediate the PFOA and PFOS MCL violations at these eighteen (18) points by the one-year deadline of November 30, 2022.

New Jersey adopted a standard, or MCL, for PFOA in 2020 and monitoring began in 2021. The MCL for PFOA is 14 parts per trillion (ppt) and is based on a running annual average (RAA), in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged. The RAA for PFOA, based on samples collected over the last four quarters at the exceeding treatment plants, are between 15.3 – 26.8 ppt. A full list of the system's treatment plant exceedances and their RAA can be found on page four of this public notice.

New Jersey adopted a standard, or MCL, for PFOS in 2020 and monitoring began in 2021. The MCL for PFOS is 13 parts per trillion (ppt) and is based on a RAA, in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged. The RAA for PFOS, based on samples collected over the last four quarters at the exceeding treatment plants, are between 13.5 – 14.7 ppt. A full list of the system's treatment plant exceedances and their RAA can be found on page four of this notice.

What is being done?

Ridgewood Water has been working closely with New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) on this issue since 2020. Our Master Plan for designing, purchasing, integrating, and testing a permanent PFAS treatment system was completed in 2020, approved by the Village of Ridgewood Council in February 2021. NJDEP reviewed Ridgewood Water's PFAS treatment Master Plan in November 2021. As part of the Master Plan, Ridgewood Water is centralizing PFAS treatment by consolidating from thirty-one (31) treatment plants to twelve (12) treatment plants to provide the most efficient treatment.

Implementation of that Plan is well underway. A PFAS treatment system was constructed and made active at the Carr Treatment Plant in 2019. A second PFAS treatment system was recently installed at the Twinney Treatment Plant in August 2022 and is pending NJDEP approval. We have awarded contracts and are in the permit approval process with NJDEP for the Ames, Cedar Hill, Wortendyke, & Prospect PFAS Treatment Plants. A permit has already been approved for the Ravine/Marr Treatment Plant. We plan to break ground on all of those projects in 2023. Design, permitting, and construction of treatment systems at other Ridgewood Water plants will continue this year and into 2023 and 2024. Additionally, Ridgewood Water purchases water from Veolia, and has established and activated a new interconnection with Passaic Valley Water Commission for additional water supply. Both purchased water sources are compliant with PFAS regulations.

Integrating PFAS treatment systems into our existing treatment plants to address the contamination is complex, time-consuming, expensive – and necessary. We are dedicated to clean up the contamination, which was caused by others. We are in court to hold those companies who are responsible for the contamination accountable, so that they, not you, pay the costs of getting the job done.

Ridgewood Water has created a PFAS Resources page on its website at <https://water.ridgewoodnj.net/pfas-resources/>.

If you have additional questions, please email Customer Service at cswater@ridgewoodnj.net or (201) 670-5520. Thank you.

What are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (“PFAS”) are a group of man-made chemicals that includes PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, GenX, and many others. PFAS have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries in the United States, and around the globe, since the 1940s. PFOA and PFOS have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. Both chemicals are very persistent in the environment and in the human body—meaning they don’t break down and they can accumulate over time. There is evidence that exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse human health effects. The two prominent PFAS compounds found in the Ridgewood Water groundwater sources are PFOA and PFOS.

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 greaseproof 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 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?

FOR PFOA: **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 PFOS: **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 and <https://www.nj.gov/dep/pfas/index.html>.

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 and/or 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 PFOA and/or PFOS.
- Other people may also choose to use bottled water for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOA and/or PFOS or a home water filter that is certified to reduce levels of PFOA and/or PFOS. Home water treatment devices are available that can reduce levels of PFOA and/or PFOS. For more specific information regarding the effectiveness of home water filters for reducing PFOA and/or PFOS, visit the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) International website, <http://www.nsf.org/>.
- Boiling your water will not remove PFOA or PFOS.

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

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 Ridgewood Water. State Water System ID#: NJ0251001
Date distributed: January 15, 2023

Ridgewood Water has thirty-one (31) total treatment plants in its service area. Twenty-five (25) treatment plants are currently active, with six (6) offline for repairs and/or replacement. Given fluctuations in seasonal demand between off-peak (winter) and peak (summer) water usage, some treatment plants are made active or inactive based on the hydraulic needs of the service area.

Treatment Plants Exceeding the PFOA MCL

The MCL for PFOA is 14 parts per trillion (ppt) and is based on a running annual average (RAA), in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged.

Point of Entry (Treatment Plants)	RAA 4Q2022 (ppt)	POE exceeded 1 year deadline
TP001001 *	23	X
TP004012	20	X
TP005023	26	X
TP010030	23	X
TP014038	18	X
TP018047	24	X
TP019049	18	X
TP020051	18	X
TP024060	27	X
TP025062	21	X
TP028068	27	X
TP030072	25	X
TP032076	22	
TP033079	25	X
TP035083	22	X
TP023057	26	X
TP002003	23	X
TP043097	23	X
TP021053	25	X
TP022055	19	
TP044099	15	
TP016042	17	

Treatment Plants Exceeding the PFOS MCL

The MCL for PFOS is 13 parts per trillion (ppt) and is based on a running annual average (RAA), in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged.

Point of Entry (Treatment Plants)	RAA 4Q2022 (ppt)	POE exceeded 1 year deadline
TP033079	14	
TP023057	15	

Treatment Plants Not Exceeding the PFOA or PFOS MCLs

1. TP049126 Carr Treatment Plant (A PFAS treatment system was installed in 2019)
2. TP003006
3. TP041094 - Temporary treatment installed pending NJDEP approval

Treatment Plants Currently Inactive

1. TP017044
2. TP026064
3. TP034081
4. TP038149
5. TP040092
6. TP036086

*TP001001 (Active but offline Q4)





131 North Maple Avenue
Ridgewood, NJ 07451

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