

## **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](mailto: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.

As of the second quarter 2023 sampling period ending on June 30, 2023, we have exceeded the MCL for PFOA at twenty-three (23) points of entry and the MCL for PFOS at four (4) 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 twenty (20) points by the one-year deadline

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 – 31 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 14 – 17 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. Due to the comprehensive treatment necessary, it was not possible to complete within the one-year compliance requirement. In May 2023, Ridgewood Water entered into an Administrative Consent Order (ACO), recognizing the need for comprehensive treatment is necessary. The ACO sets a definitive goal for the end of 2026. 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 facilities to twelve (12) treatment facilities to provide the most efficient treatment.

Implementation of that Plan is well underway. A PFAS treatment facility was constructed and made active at the Carr Treatment Plant in 2019. A second PFAS treatment facility was installed at the Twinney Treatment Plant in August 2022 and is pending NJDEP final approval. Ridgewood Water has awarded engineering contracts and are in the permit approval process with NJDEP for the Ames, Cedar Hill, Wortendyke, East Ridgewood, and West End PFAS Treatment Facilities. Ridgewood Water has awarded construction contracts for the Prospect and Ravine Treatment Facilities. Ridgewood Water will break ground on these projects this summer. Design, permitting, and construction of treatment facilities at other Ridgewood Water plants will continue this year and into 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 NJDEP PFAS regulations.

Integrating PFAS treatment systems into our existing treatment facilities 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 Information page on its website at <https://water.ridgewoodnj.net/pfas-resources/>.

If you have additional questions, please email Customer Service at [cswater@ridgewoodnj.net](mailto: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](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.** Ridgewood Water has thirty-one (31) total treatment plants in its service area. During the second quarter of 2023, twenty (20) of the twenty-five (25) active treatment plants were running, and six (6) were permanently 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. **Please conserve water. When you conserve, we are able to deliver water with lower levels of PFAS.**

**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 2Q2023 (ppt)	Treatment Plants Running 2Q2023	POE exceeded 1 year deadline
TP004012	20	X	X
TP005023	27	X	X
TP010030	23	X	X
TP014038	18	X	X
TP019049	19	X	X
TP020051	19	X	X
TP025062	22	X	X
TP028068	27	X	X
TP002003	27	X	X
TP041094*	5	X	X
TP044099	15	X	
TP001001	31		X
TP018047	24	X	X
TP024060	26	X	X
TP030072	25	X	X
TP032076	21	X	X
TP033079	25		X
TP035083	22	X	X
TP023057	26		X
TP043097	25	X	X
TP021053	24	X	X
TP016042	17		
TP022055	26	X	

**Treatment Plants Not Exceeding PFOA or PFOS MCLs**

1. TP049126 Carr Treatment Plant (A PFAS treatment system was installed in 2019).
2. TP003006

**Treatment Plants Currently Inactive**

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

**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 2Q2023 (ppt)	Treatment Plants Running 2Q2023	POE exceeded 1 year deadline
TP001001	17		X
TP041094*	4	X	X
TP023057	15		
TP033079	14		

\*TP041094 Twiny Treatment Facility is included on the chart above despite its RAA falling below the MCLs. This facility has treatment installed, which is currently under temporary approval while pending permanent approval.